Carsten Braun

3 Christmas Songs

für gemischten Chor (S/A/T/B) und Klavier

Nach Gedichten von William Shakespeare, Kenneth Grahame und Lewis Carroll

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Vorwort

Die in dieser Sammlung enthaltenen Chorstücke verarbeiten jeweils Gedichte, die in einem größeren literarischen Werk enthalten sind und sich thematisch mit Weihnachtlichen Themen bzw. Gedanken auseinandersetzen.

Shakespeares „Blow, blow, thou winter wind“ ist dem 1699 verfassten Theaterstück „Wie es euch gefällt“ („As you like it“) entnommen und findet sich in zahlreichen Sammlungen Weihnachtlicher Gedichte. Die erste Strophe wird von einem motorischen Klaviermotiv geprägt, das die unermüdliche Energie des Windes symbolisiert. Der Refrain dagegen ist im Stil englisch/irischer Folkmusik geschrieben. In der ersten Hälfte der 2. Strophe („Freeze, freeze…“) kommt das treibende Element zunächst etwas zur Ruhe, nimmt in der 2. Hälfte der Strophe aber wieder Fahrt auf. Der folgende Refrain sollte nach Möglichkeit a capella gesungen werden. Für den Bedarfsfall steht aber eine mögliche Klavierbegleitung in Stichnoten dabei. Die Dynamik sollte dann an die des Chores angepasst werden. Zum Schluss werden Motive aus der 1. Strophe und dem Refrain miteinander kombiniert, um den Satz so zu einem musikalischen Höhepunkt zu führen.

„Carol“ entstammt dem 1908 erschienenen Kinderbuch „Der Wind in den Weiden“ („The wind in the willows“) von Kenneth Grahame. Meine Vertonung des Gedichts ist von farbiger Harmonik im Spannungsfeld zwischen Pop, Musical und Jazz geprägt – sanft und mit Fokus auf der Melodieführung. Die erste, vierte und fünfte Strophe werden vom kompletten Chor geprägt, wobei die Unterstimmen in der fünften Strophe während der wörtlichen Rede überwiegend nur summen. Die zweite Strophe wird von den Männerstimmen, die dritte von den Frauenstimmen gesungen. Eine Ausnahme bildet stets die Zeile „…joy in the morning“, die wie ein Kehrvers gearbeitet ist und immer vom kompletten Chor gesungen wird.

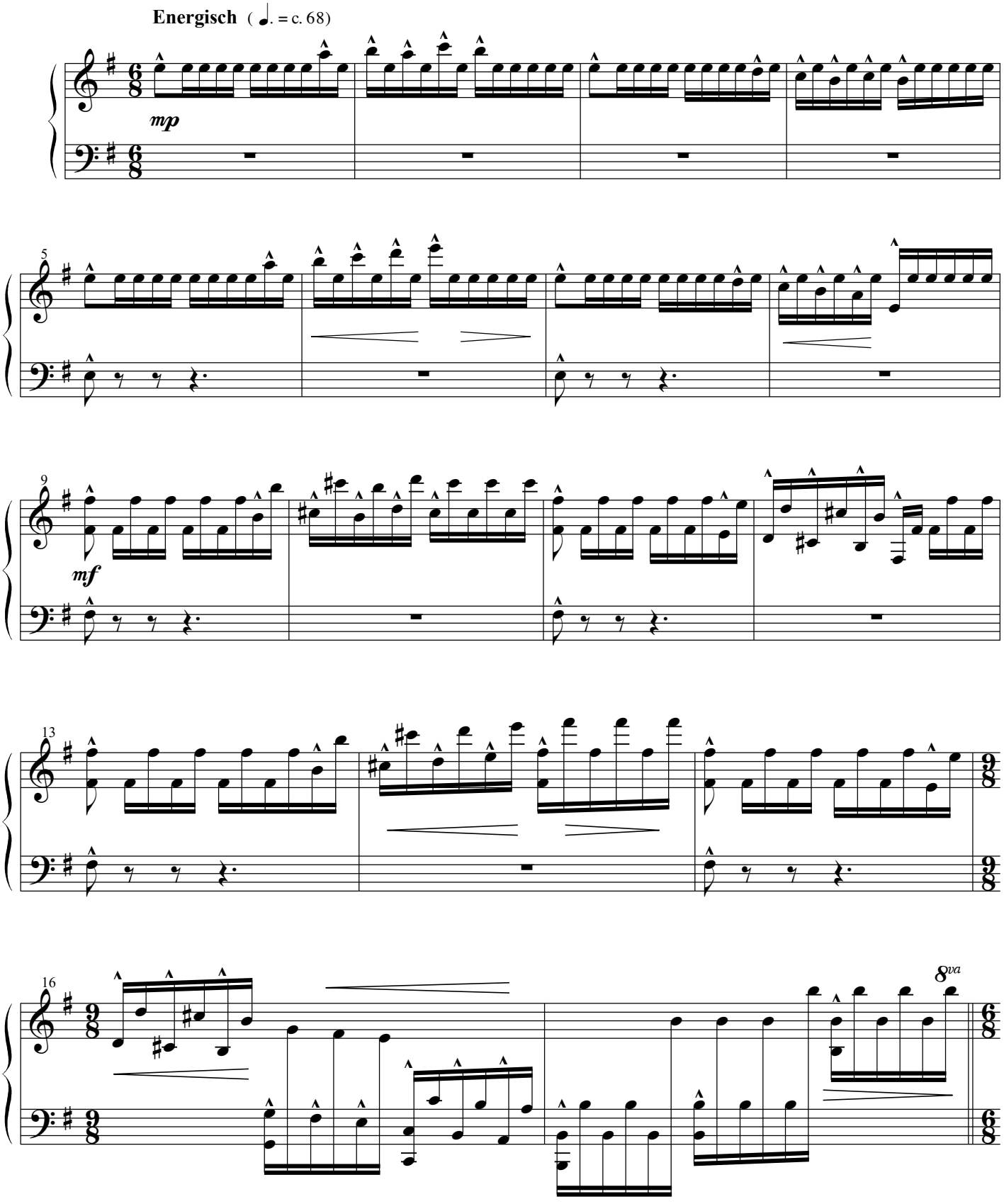
„Christmas Greetings (from a fairy to a child)“ findet sich im Originalmanuskript von „Alice im Wunderland“ (1867 unter dem Titel „Alice´s Adventures Under Ground“ veröffentlicht). Auch in manchen Gesamtausgaben von „Alice´s Adventures in Wonderland / Through the Looking Glass“ ist es enthalten. Die Position des Gedichts variiert zwischen ganz zu Beginn und ganz am Ende. Es ist ebenfalls fünfstrophig, wobei die erste und fünfte Strophe einander musikalisch entsprechen, ebenso die zweite, dritte und vierte. Eine kleine Ausnahme bildet hierbei der Schluss der dritten Strophe „Peace on earth, good-will to men“, der musikalisch eigenständig ist und eine 1/3 zu 2/3 Teilung des Chores vorsieht. Diese Fassung von „Christmas Greetings“ entspricht in ihrer Form weitestgehend der auf Youtube zu findenden, recht weit verbreiteten Pop-Fassung, die ich 2011 schrieb und produzierte.

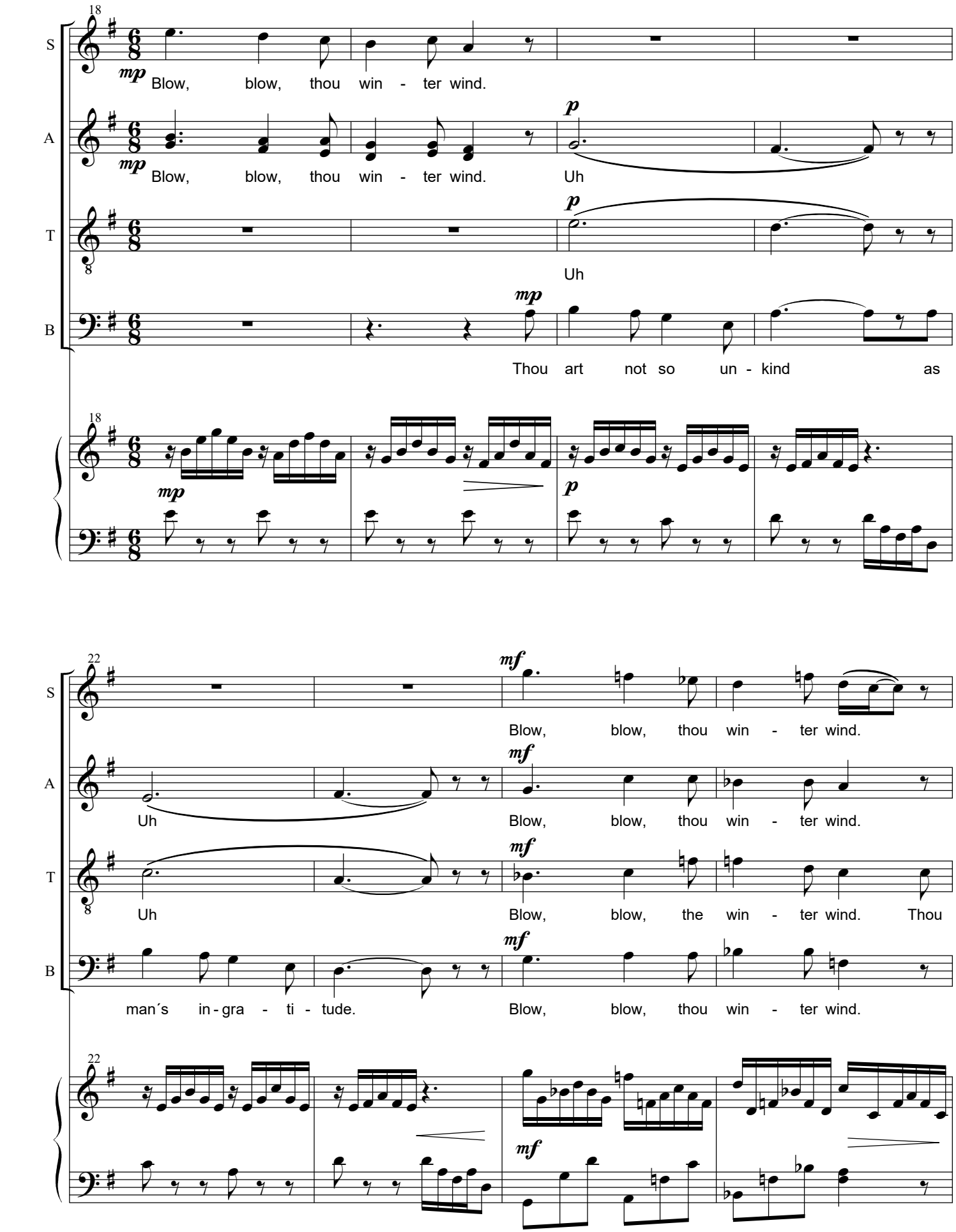
Die „3 Christmas Songs“ sind in unterschiedlichen instrumentalen Besetzungen erhältlich.

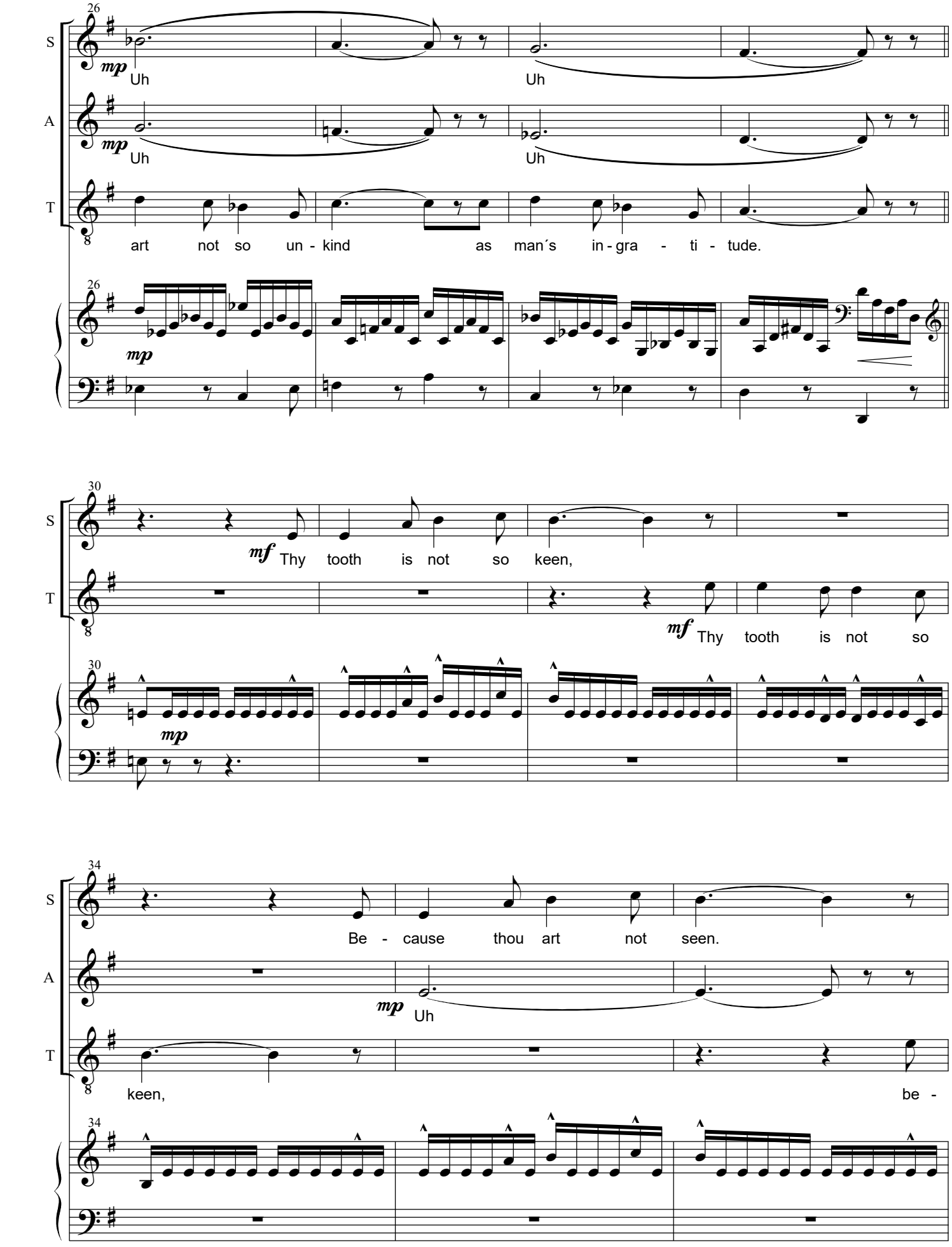
Im Januar 2025,
Carsten Braun

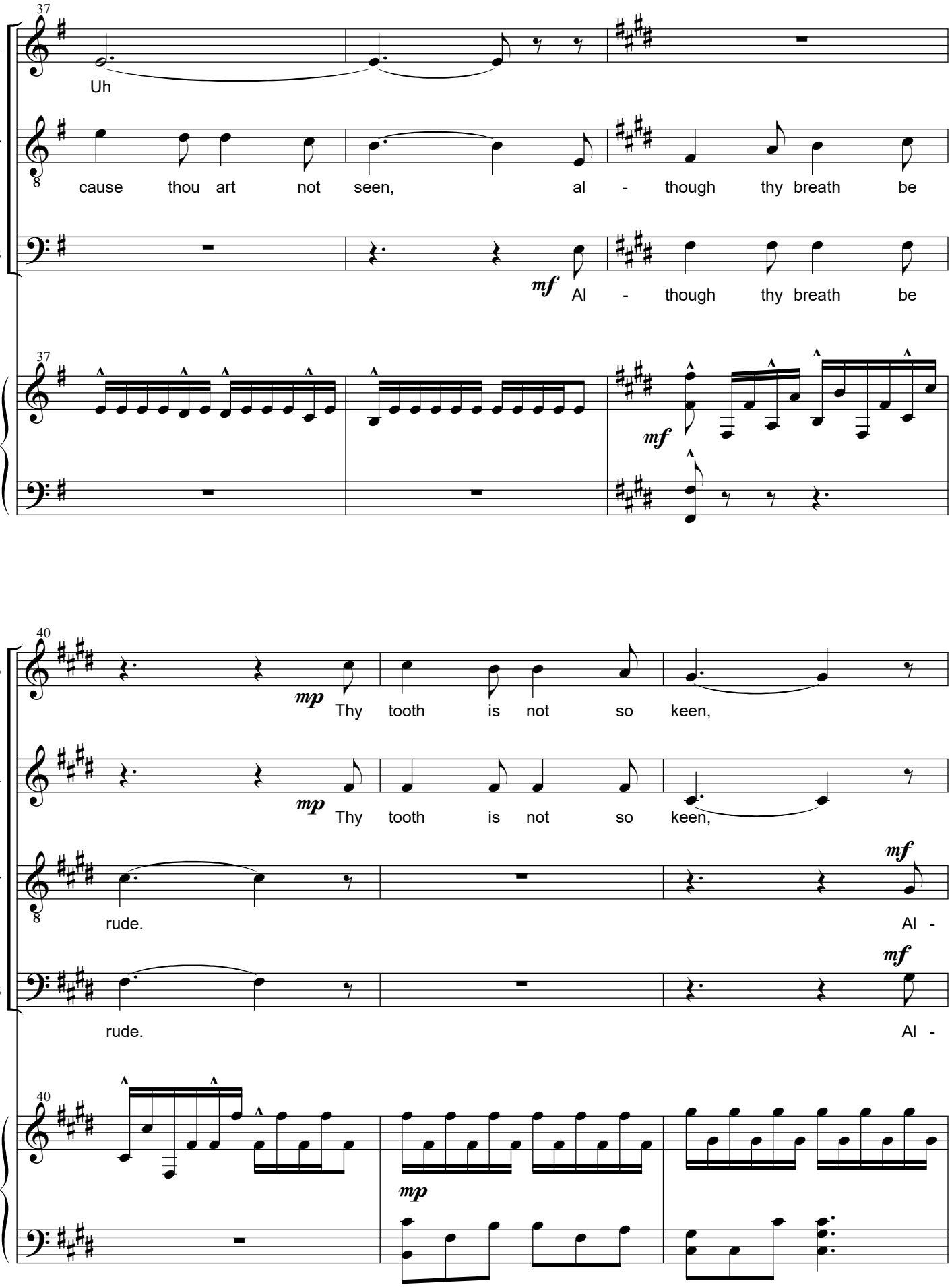
1. Blow, blow, thou winter wind

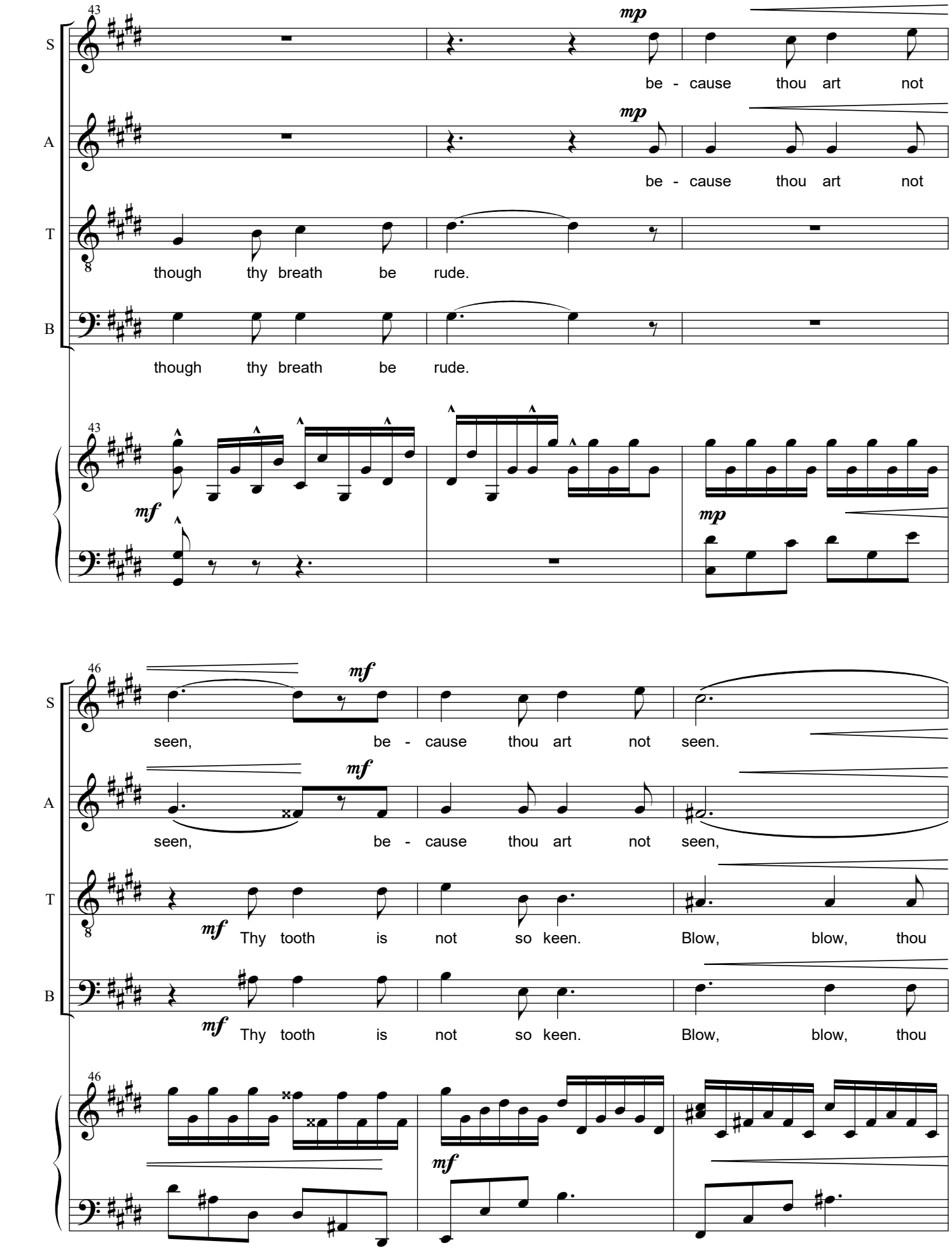
William Shakepeare 1599
taken from
"As you like it"
Act II, Scene VII

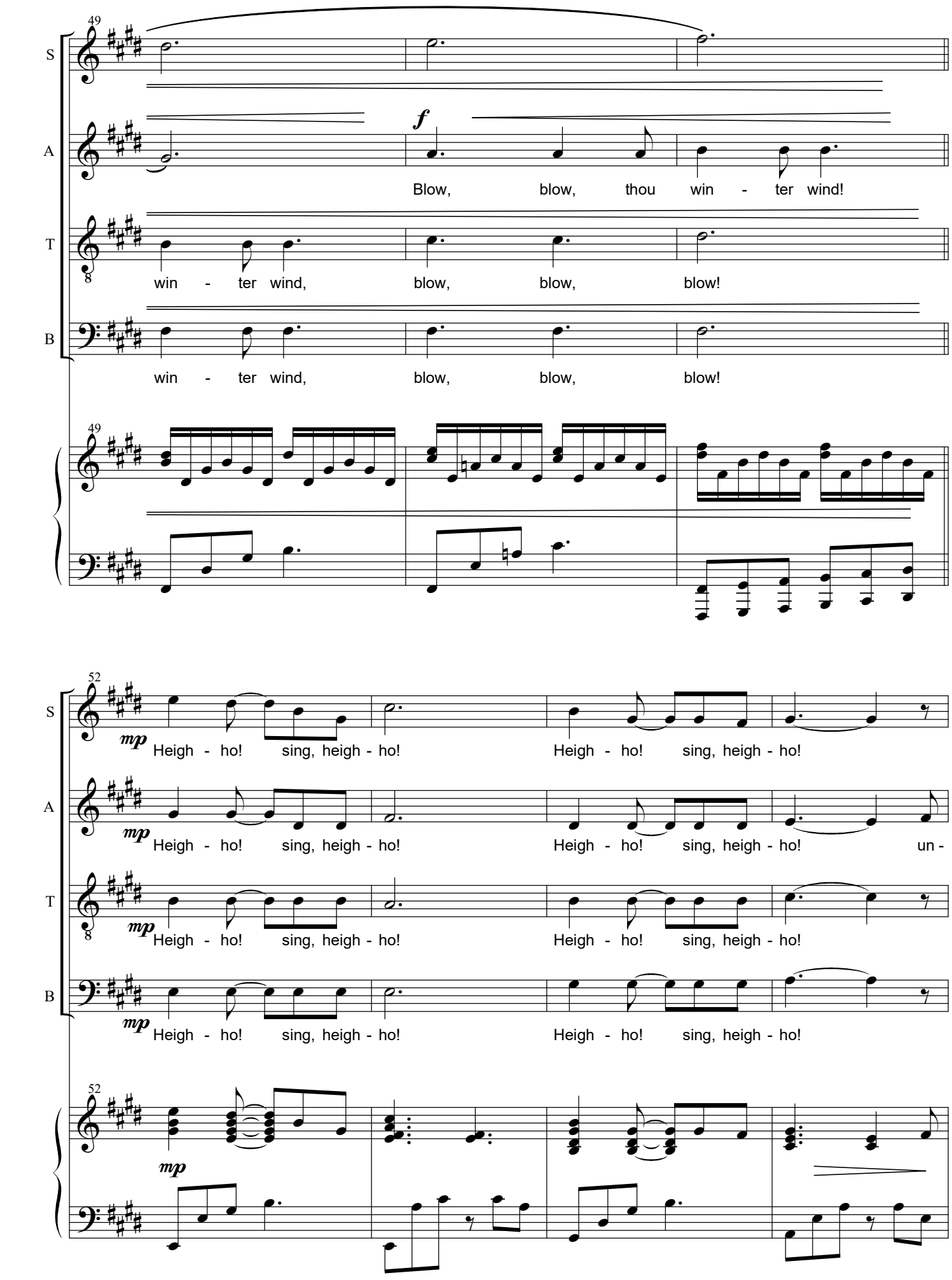


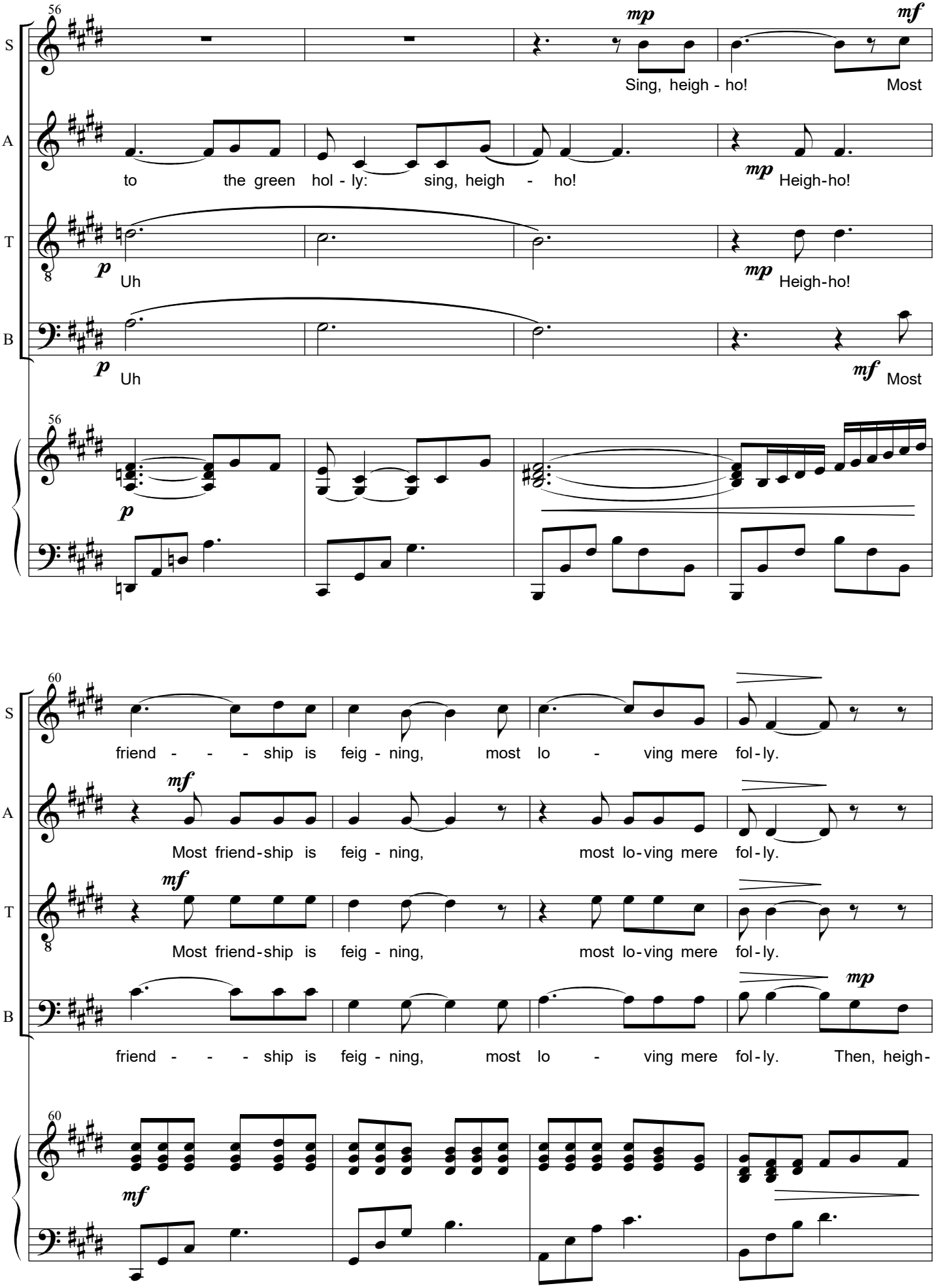

18
S
A
T
B
mp
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind.
p
Uh
Thou art not so un - kind as
22
mf
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind.
Uh
Blow, blow, the win - ter wind. Thou
man´s in - gra - ti - tude.

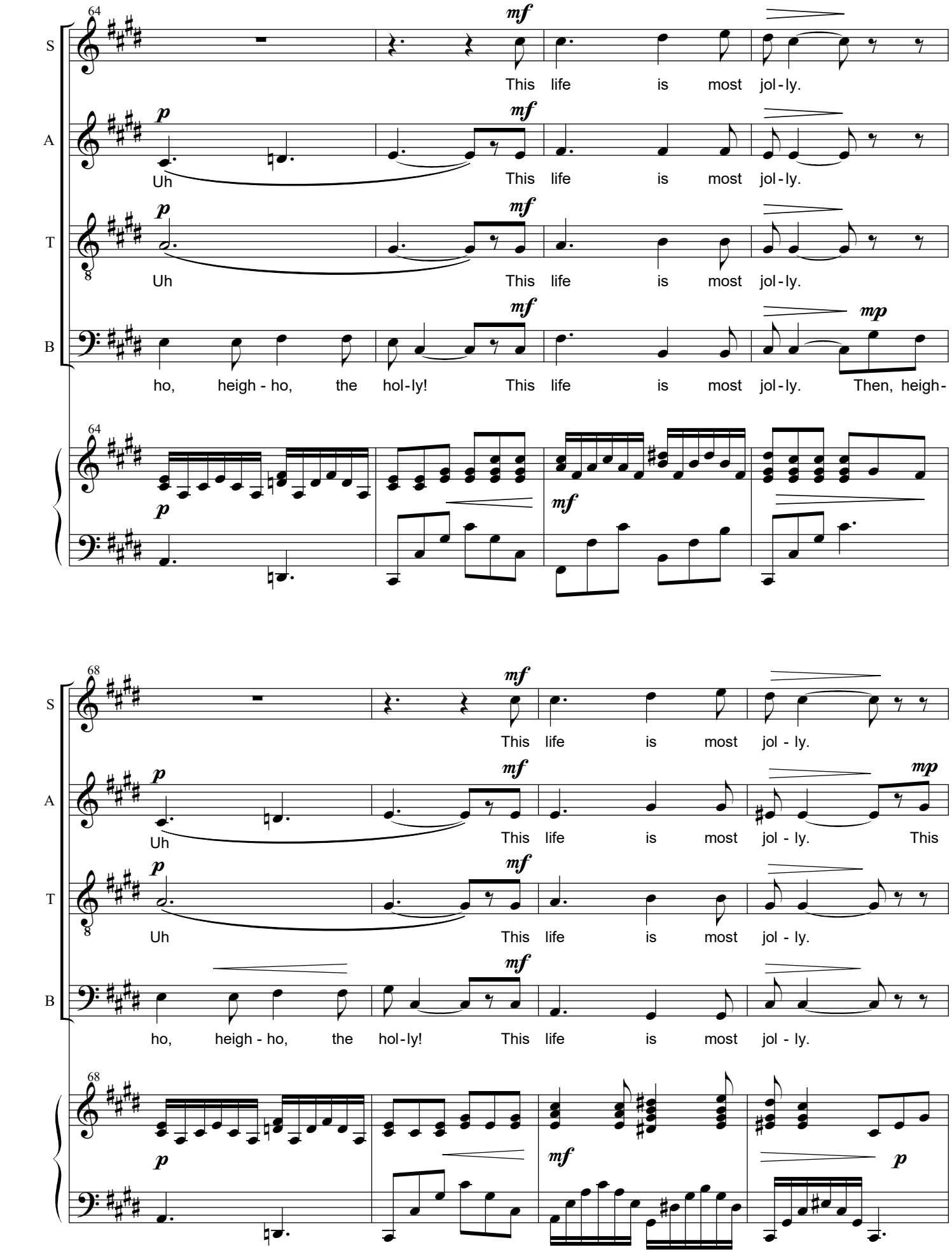

26
S
A
T
mp
Uh
Uh
mp
Uh
Uh
art not so un - kind as man´s in - gra - ti - tude.
26
mp
30
S
T
mf
Thy tooth is not so keen,
mf
Thy tooth is not so
30
mp
34
S
A
T
Be - cause thou art not seen.
mp
Uh
keen, be -
34

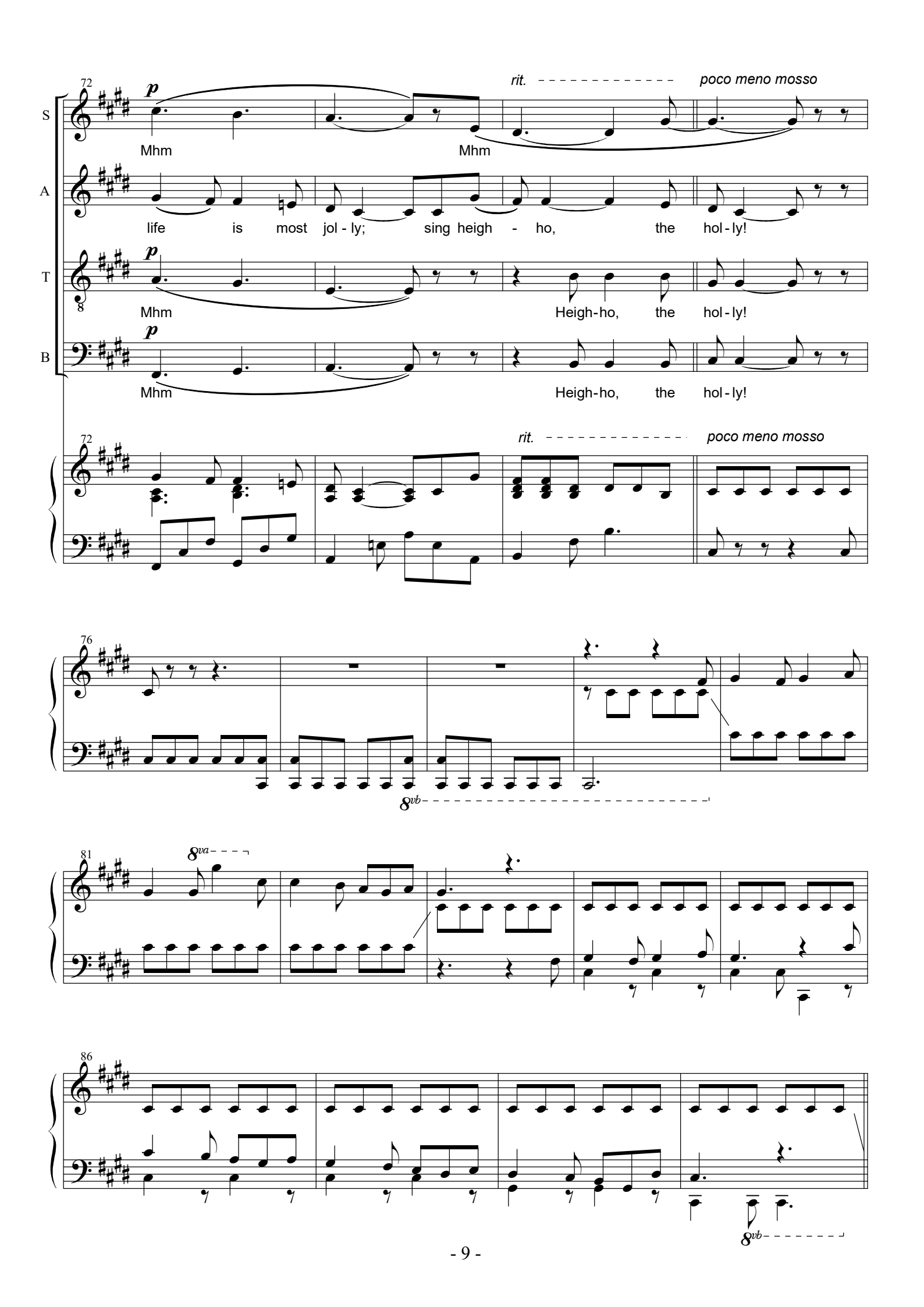

37
A
Uh
T
cause thou art not seen, al - though thy breath be
B
mf
Al - though thy breath be
37
mf
40
S
mp
Thy tooth is not so keen,
A
mp
Thy tooth is not so keen,
T
mf
rude.
Al -
B
mf
rude.
Al -
40
mp

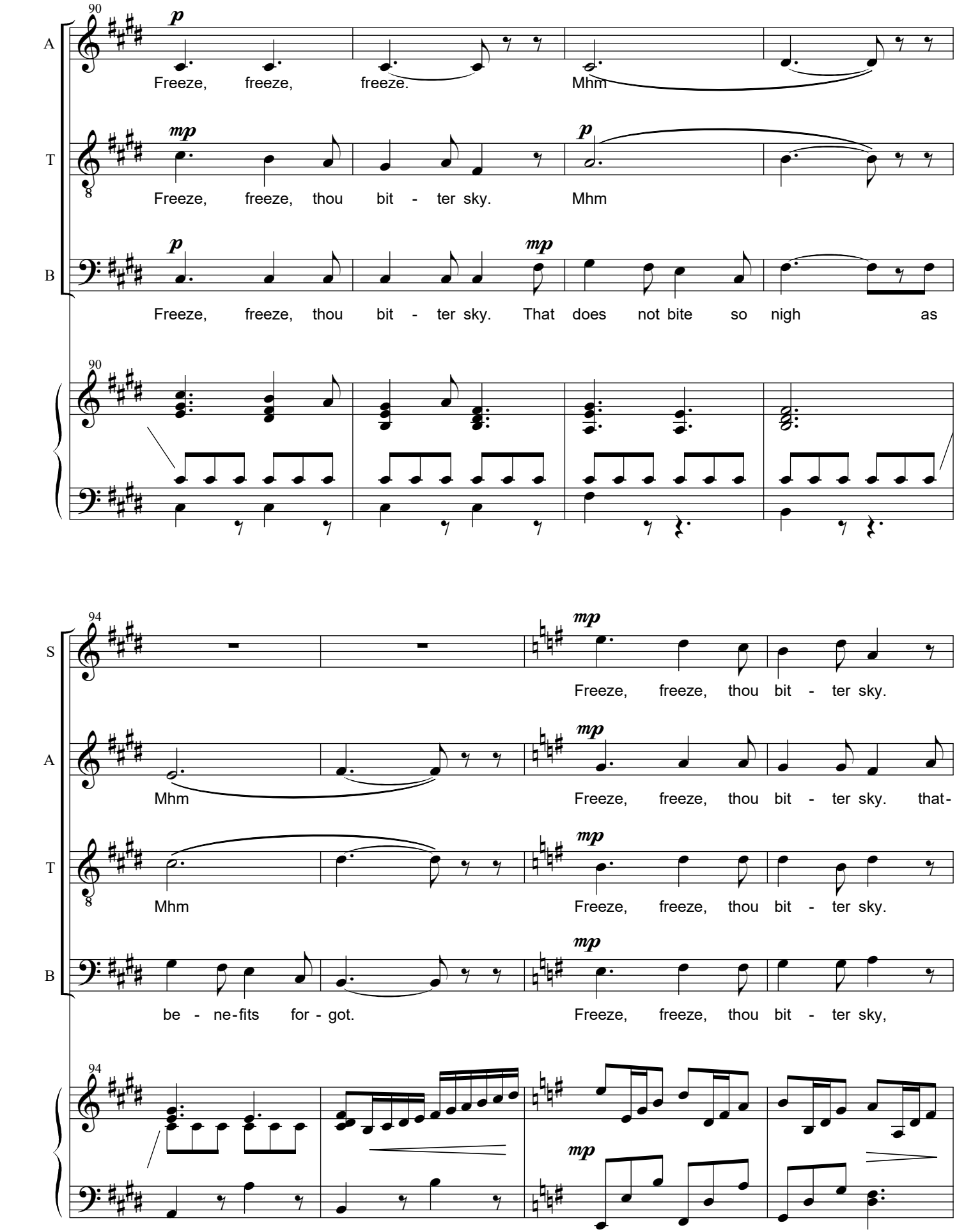

43
S
A
T
B
mp
be - cause thou art not
be - cause thou art not
though thy breath be rude.
though thy breath be rude.
mf
mp
46
mf
seen, be - cause thou art not seen.
seen, be - cause thou art not seen,
Thy tooth is not so keen. Blow, blow, thou
Thy tooth is not so keen. Blow, blow, thou

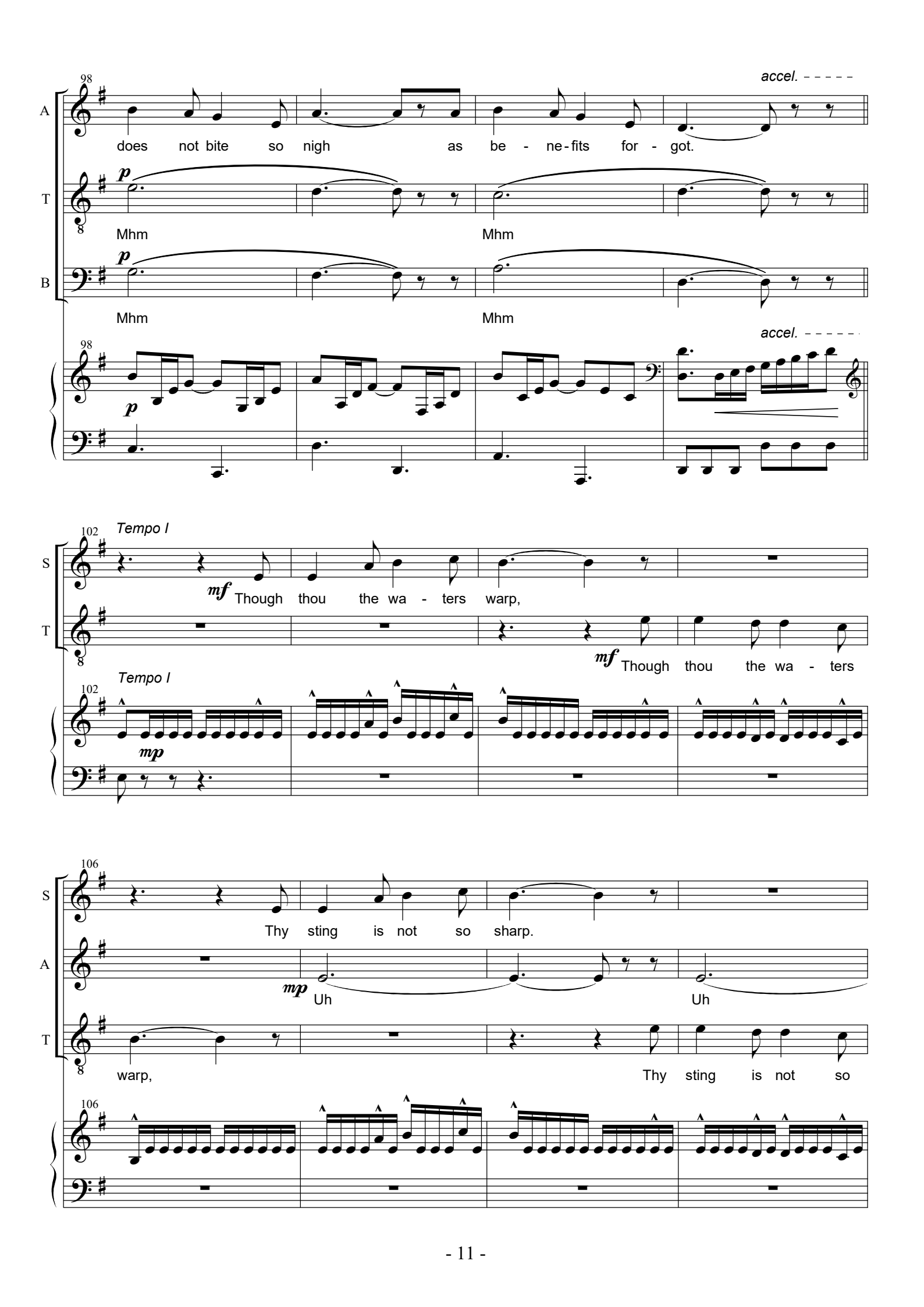

49
S
A
T
B
f
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind!
win - ter wind, blow, blow, blow!
win - ter wind, blow, blow, blow!
52
mp
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho!
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! un -
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho!
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho!

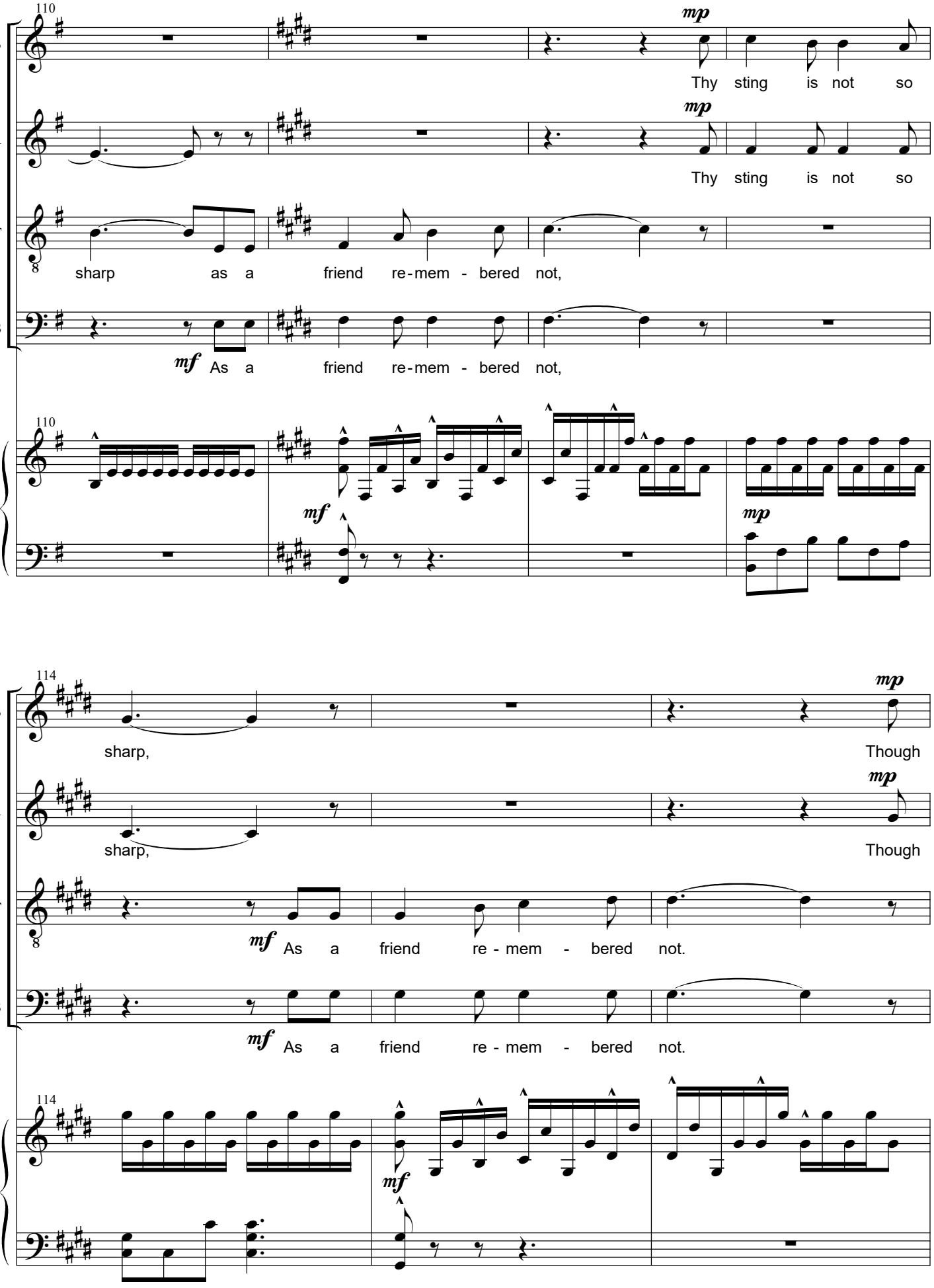

56
S
A
T
B
mp
mf
Sing, heigh - ho!
Most
to the green hol - ly: sing, heigh - ho!
mp
Heigh-ho!
p
Uh
mp
Heigh-ho!
p
Uh
mf
Most
56
p
60
S
A
T
B
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - ving mere fol - ly.
mf
Most friend-ship is feig - ning, most lo-ving mere fol - ly.
mf
Most friend-ship is feig - ning, most lo-ving mere fol - ly.
mp
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - ving mere fol - ly. Then, heigh-
60
mf

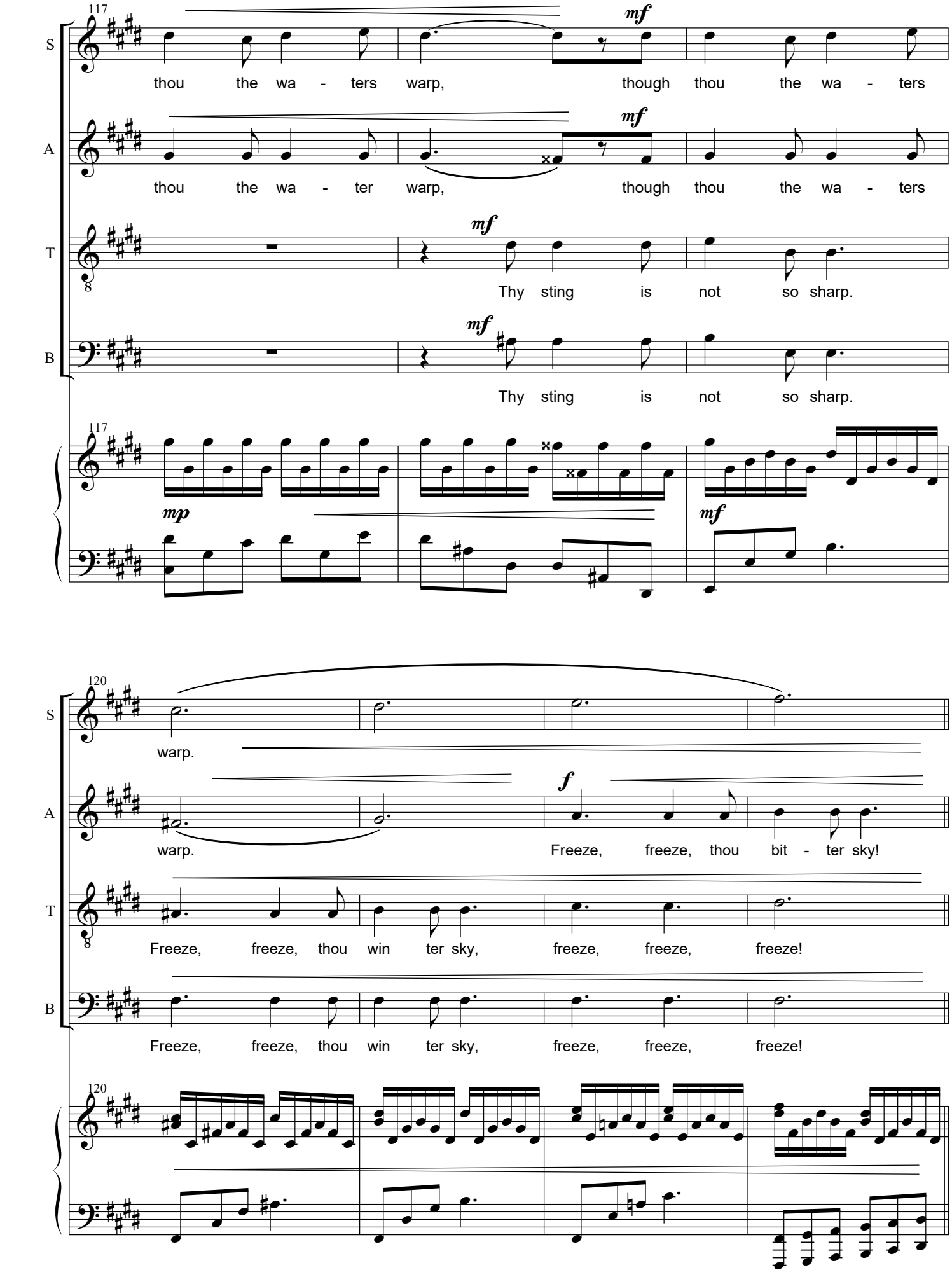

64
S
A
T
B
mf
p
mp
This life is most jol - ly.
Uh
ho, heigh - ho, the hol - ly!
Then, heigh -
68
This
- 8 -

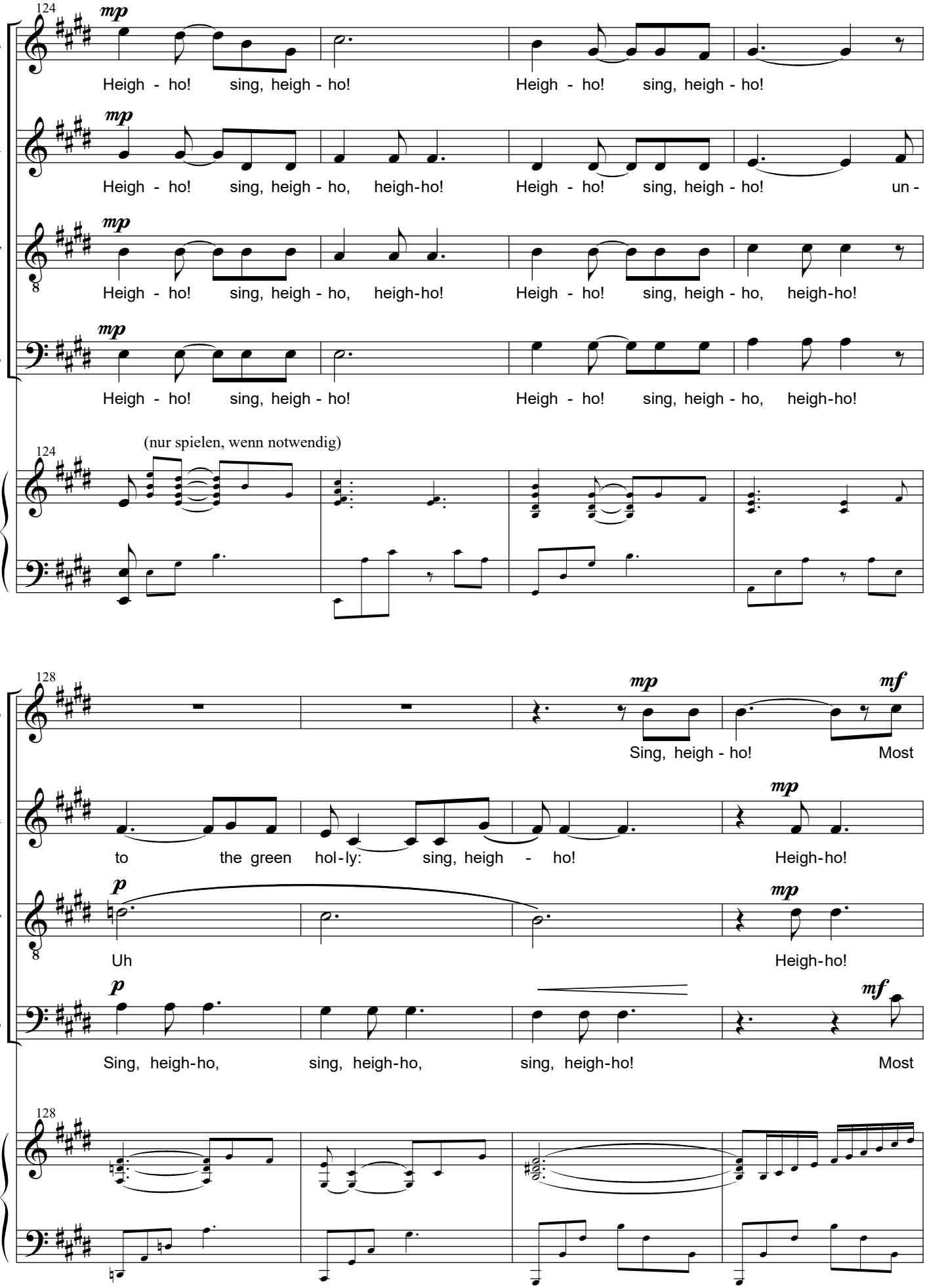

72
rit.
poco meno mosso
S
A
T
B
Mhm
Mhm
life is most jol - ly; sing heigh - ho, the hol - ly!
Mhm
Heigh-ho, the hol - ly!
Mhm
Heigh-ho, the hol - ly!
76
8vb
81
8va
86
8vb

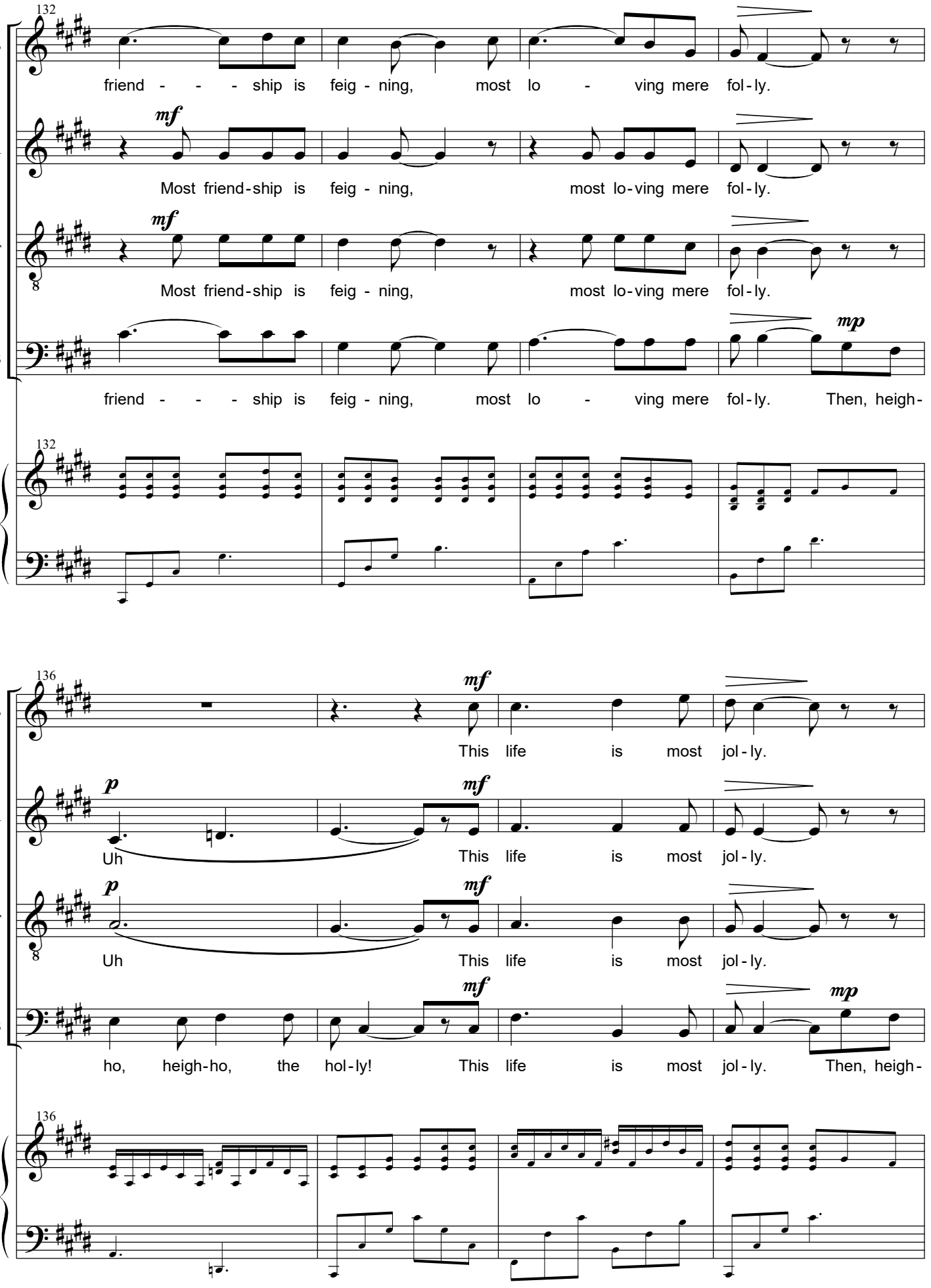

90
A
T
B
p
mp
Freeze, freeze, freeze. Mhm
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky. Mhm
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky. That does not bite so nigh as
94
S
A
T
B
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky.
Mhm
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky. that-
Mhm
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky.
be - ne-fits for - got.
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky,

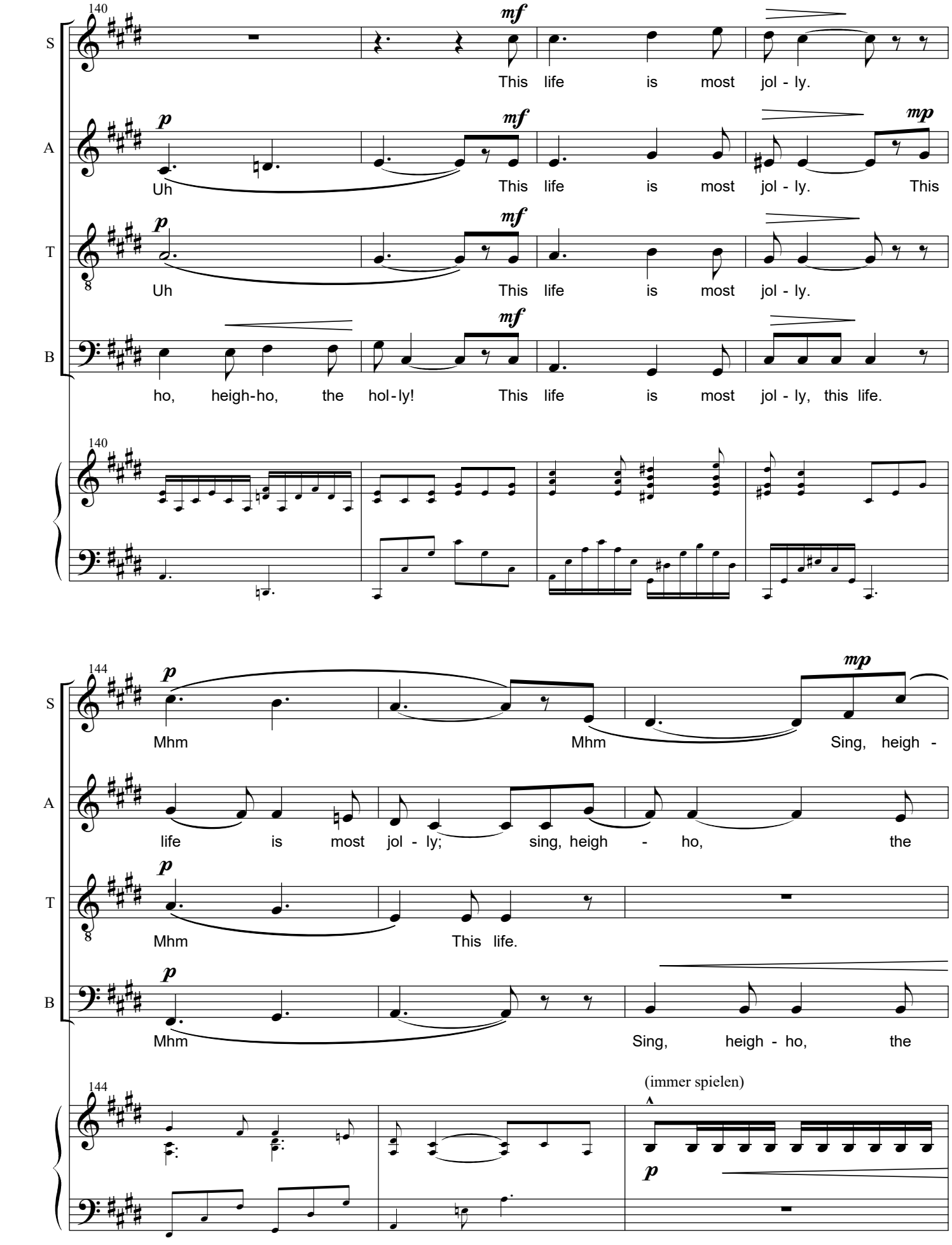

98
accel.
A
does not bite so nigh as be - ne - fits for - got.
T
p
Mhm
Mhm
B
p
Mhm
Mhm
98
accel.
p
102
Tempo I
S
mf
Though thou the wa - ters warp,
T
mf
Though thou the wa - ters
Tempo I
102
mp
106
S
Thy sting is not so sharp.
A
mp
Uh
Uh
T
warp,
Thy sting is not so
106

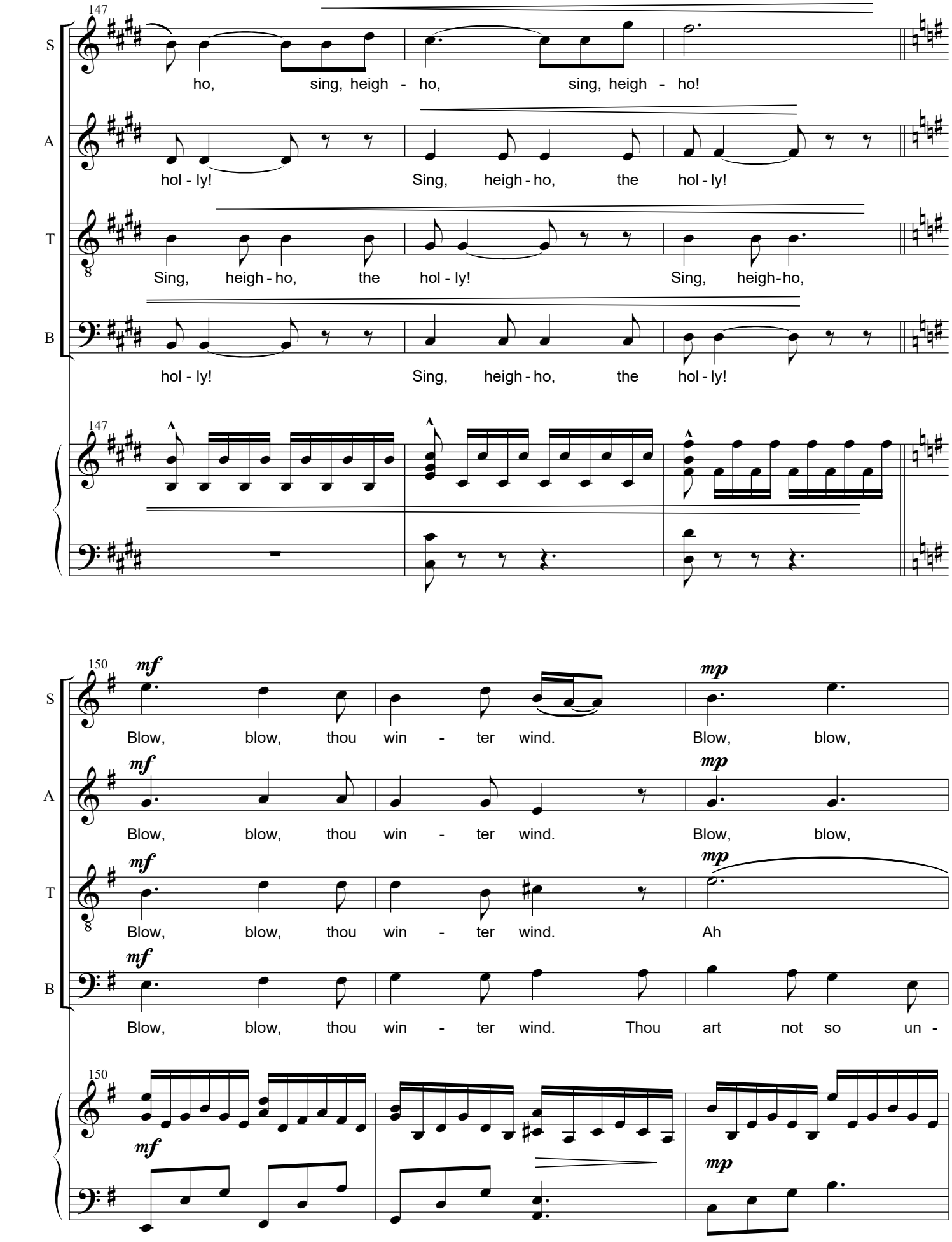

110
S
A
T
B
mp
Thy sting is not so
Thy sting is not so
sharp as a friend re-mem - bered not,
mf
As a friend re-mem - bered not,
mf
mp
114
sharp,
sharp,
Though
Though
mf
As a friend re - mem - bered not.
As a friend re - mem - bered not.

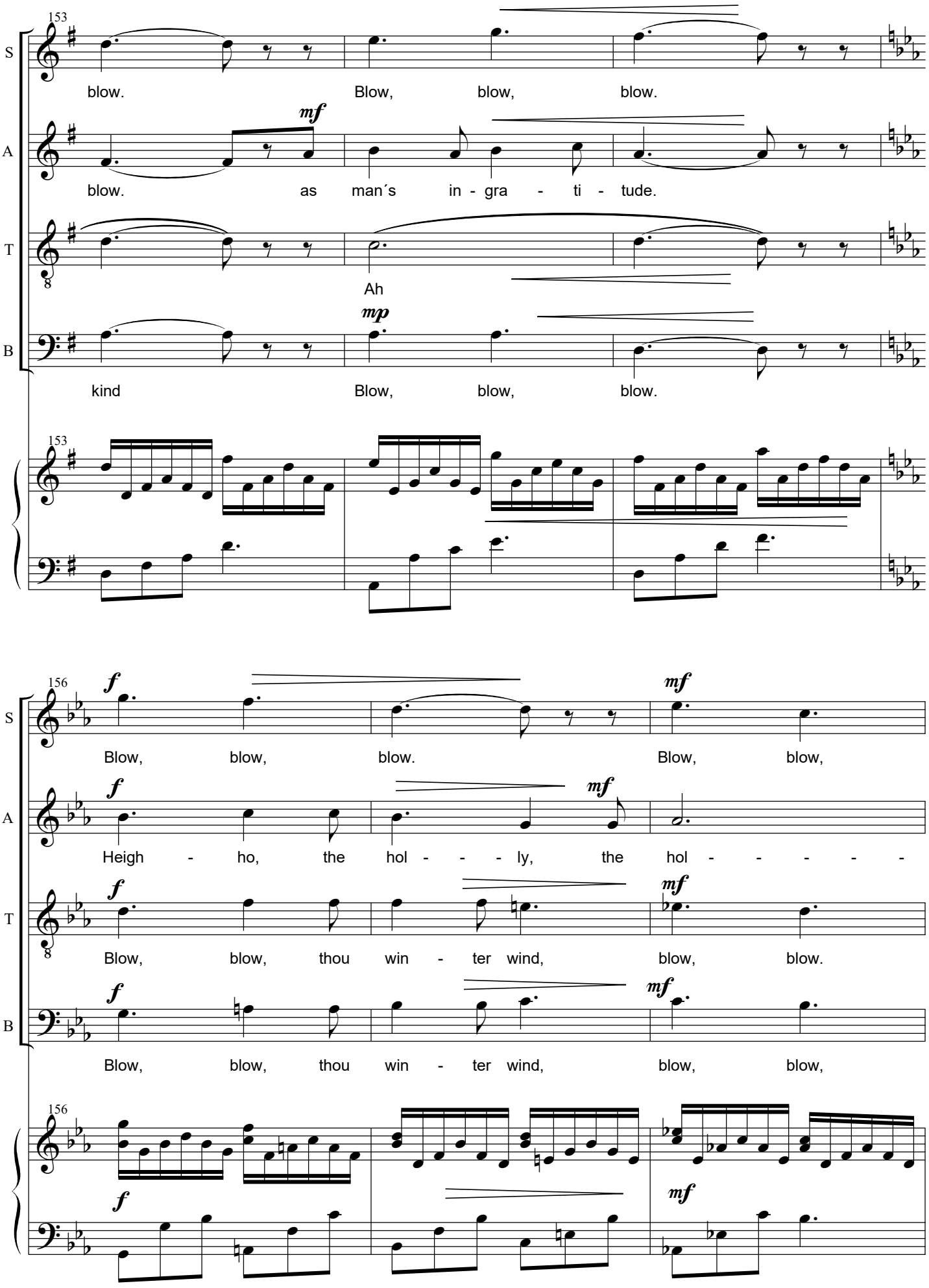

117
S
A
T
B
mf
thou the wa - ters warp, though thou the wa - ters
thou the wa - ter warp, though thou the wa - ters
Thy sting is not so sharp.
Thy sting is not so sharp.
mp
mf
120
warp.
warp.
f
Freeze, freeze, thou bit - ter sky!
Freeze, freeze, thou win ter sky, freeze, freeze, freeze!
Freeze, freeze, thou win ter sky, freeze, freeze, freeze!

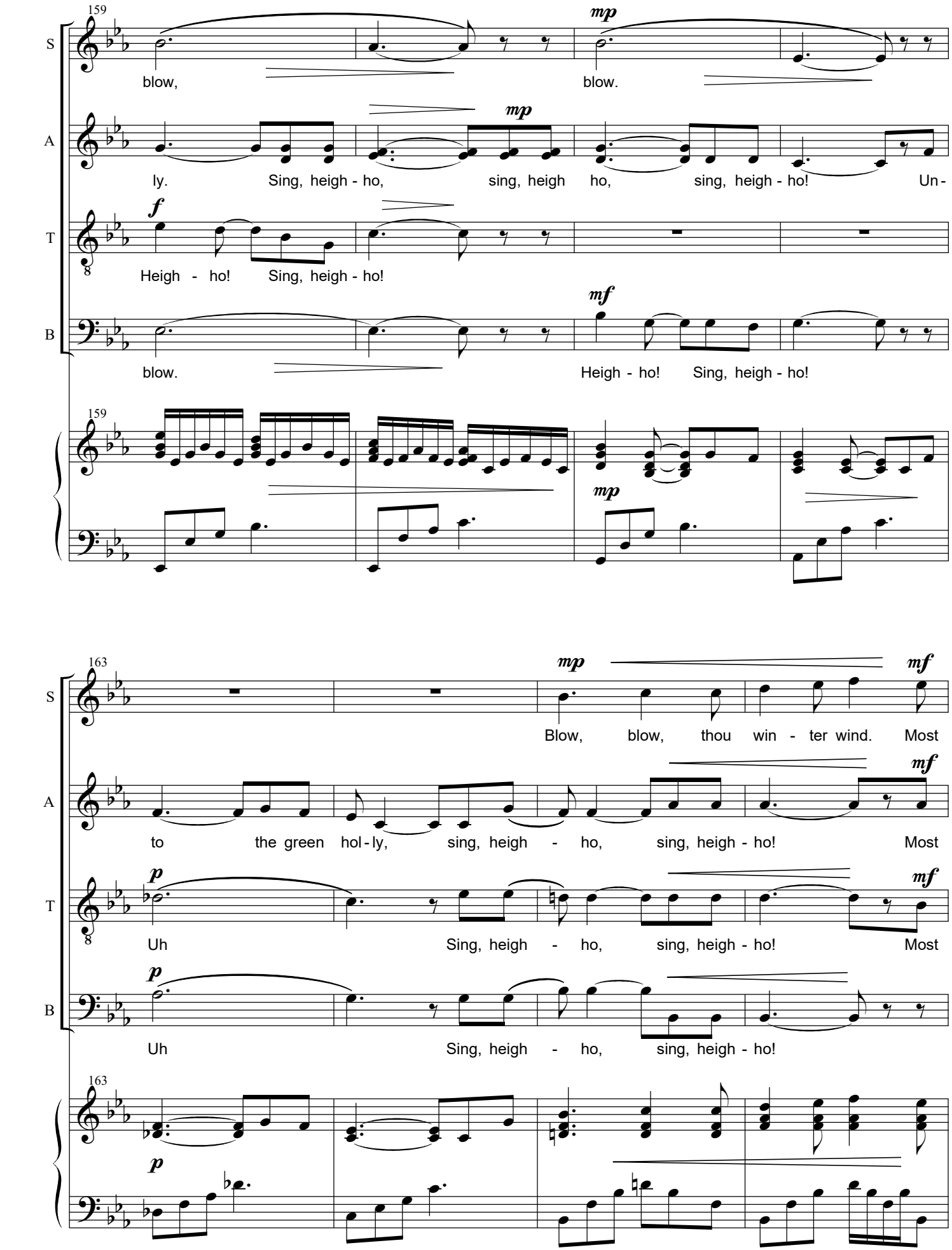

124
S
A
T
B
mp
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho!
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho, heigh-ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! un -
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho, heigh-ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho, heigh-ho!
Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho! Heigh - ho! sing, heigh - ho, heigh-ho!
(nur spielen, wenn notwendig)
128
p
mf
Sing, heigh - ho! Most
to the green hol - ly: sing, heigh - ho! Heigh-ho!
Uh Heigh-ho!
Sing, heigh-ho, sing, heigh-ho, sing, heigh-ho! Most

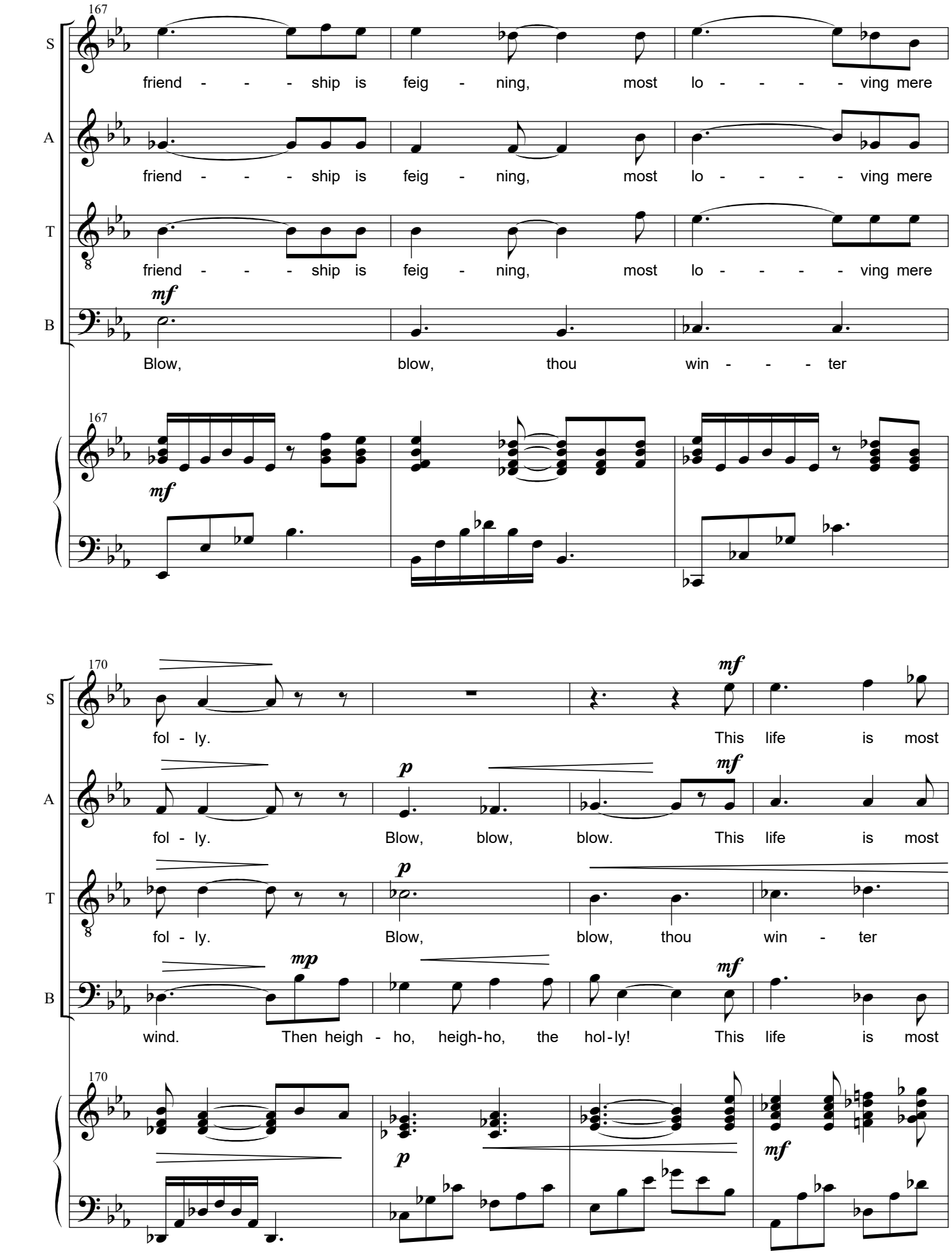

132
S
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - ving mere fol - ly.
A
mf
Most friend-ship is feig - ning, most lo-ving mere fol - ly.
T
mf
Most friend-ship is feig - ning, most lo-ving mere fol - ly.
B
mp
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - ving mere fol - ly. Then, heigh-
136
S
mf
This life is most jol - ly.
A
p
mf
Uh This life is most jol - ly.
T
p
mf
Uh This life is most jol - ly.
B
mf
mp
ho, heigh-ho, the hol - ly! This life is most jol - ly. Then, heigh-

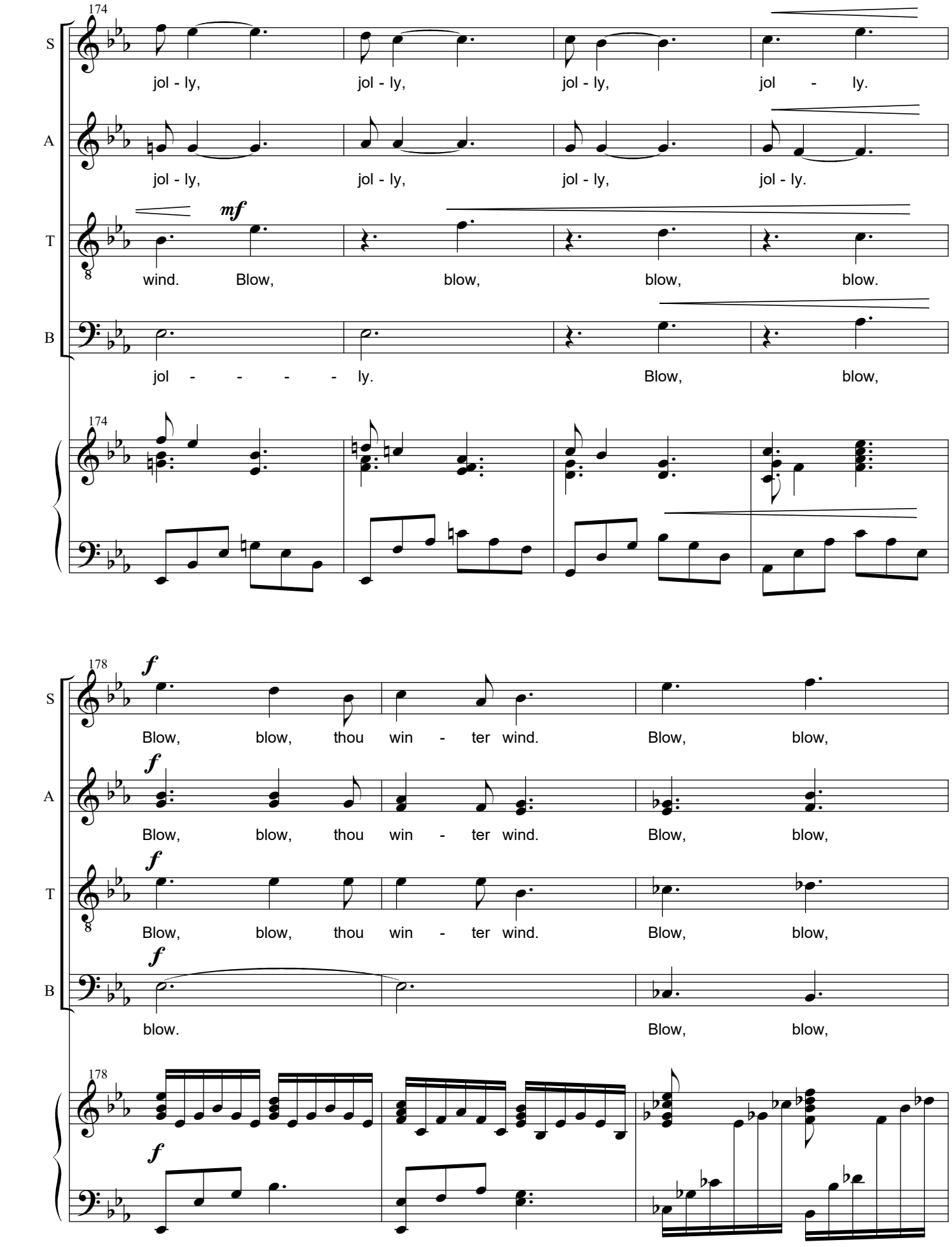

140
S
A
T
B
mf
mp
p
This life is most jol - ly.
Uh This life is most jol - ly. This
Uh This life is most jol - ly.
ho, heigh-ho, the hol-ly! This life is most jol - ly, this life.
144
Mhm Mhm Sing, heigh -
life is most jol - ly; sing, heigh - ho, the
Mhm This life.
Mhm Sing, heigh - ho, the
(immer spielen)

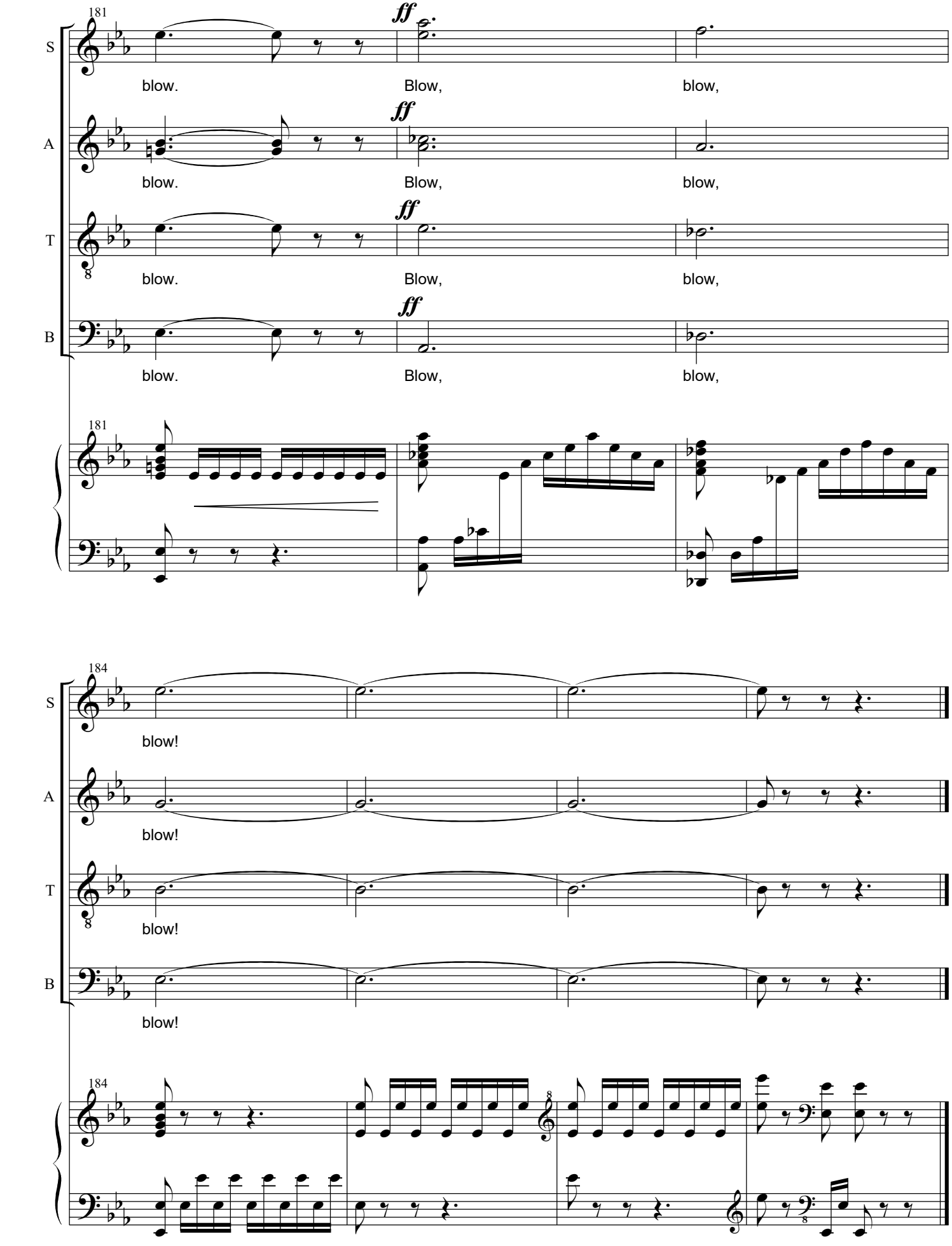

147
S
ho, sing, heigh - ho, sing, heigh - ho!
A
hol - ly! Sing, heigh - ho, the hol - ly!
T
Sing, heigh - ho, the hol - ly! Sing, heigh - ho,
B
hol - ly! Sing, heigh - ho, the hol - ly!
147
150
mf
mp
S
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Blow, blow,
A
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Blow, blow,
T
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Ah
B
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Thou art not so un -
150


153
S
blow.
Blow, blow, blow.
A
mf
blow. as man´s in - gra - ti - tude.
T
Ah
B
mp
kind
Blow, blow, blow.
156
f
mf
Blow, blow, blow. Blow, blow,
Heigh - ho, the hol - - - ly, the hol - - - - -
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind, blow, blow.
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind, blow, blow,


159
S
A
T
B
mp
blow,
blow.
ly.
Sing, heigh - ho,
sing, heigh
ho,
sing, heigh - ho!
Un -
f
Heigh - ho!
Sing, heigh - ho!
mf
blow.
Heigh - ho!
Sing, heigh - ho!
159
mp
163
mp
mf
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind.
Most
to the green hol - ly,
sing, heigh - ho,
sing, heigh - ho!
Most
p
Uh
Sing, heigh - ho,
sing, heigh - ho!
Most
Uh
Sing, heigh - ho,
sing, heigh - ho!
163
p

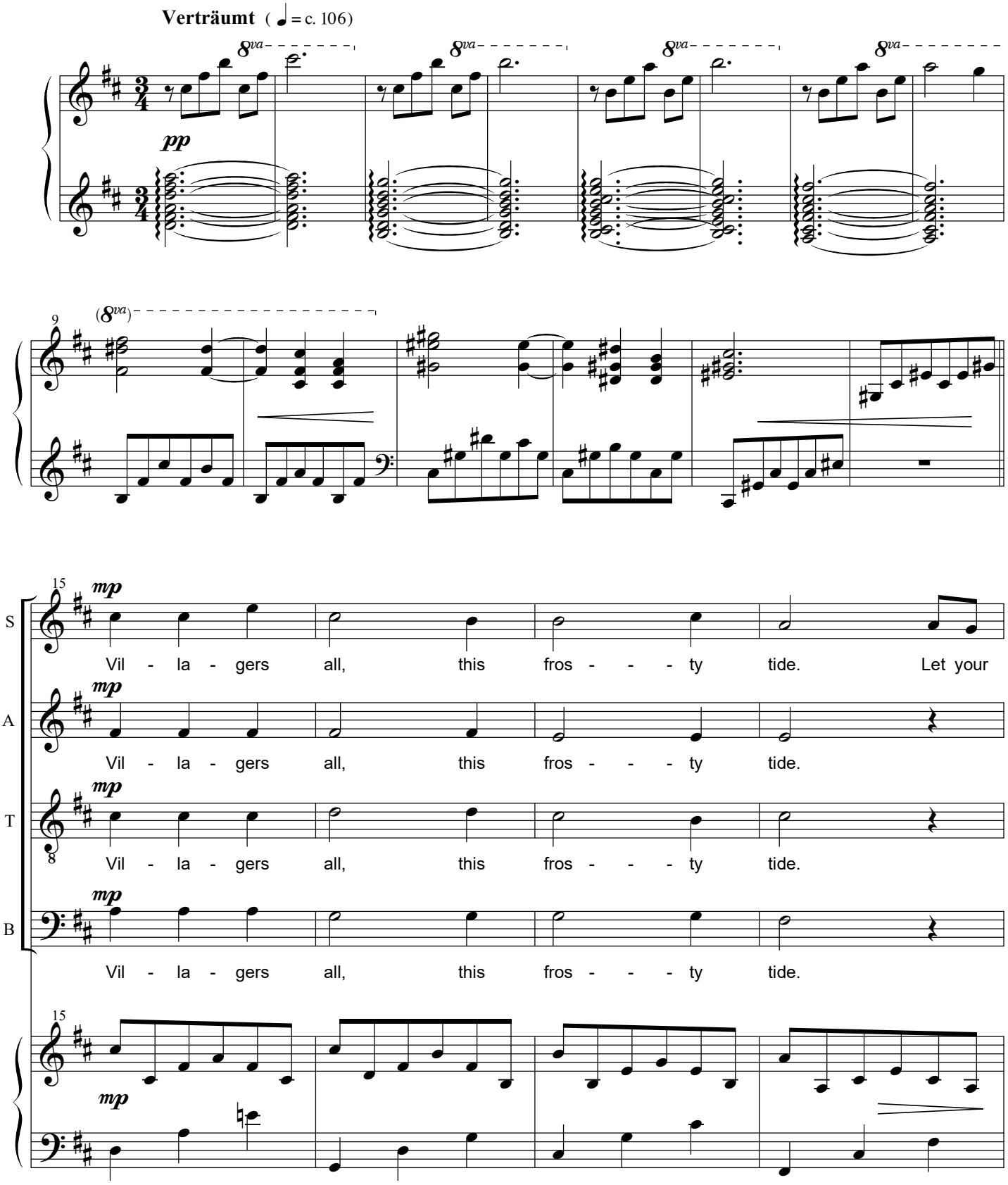

167
S
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - - - - ving mere
A
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - - - - ving mere
T
friend - - - ship is feig - ning, most lo - - - - ving mere
B
mf
Blow, blow, thou win - - - ter
167
mf
170
S
fol - ly. This life is most
A
p
mf
fol - ly. Blow, blow, blow. This life is most
T
p
fol - ly. Blow, blow, thou win - ter
B
mp
mf
wind. Then heigh - ho, heigh-ho, the hol-ly! This life is most
170
p
mf

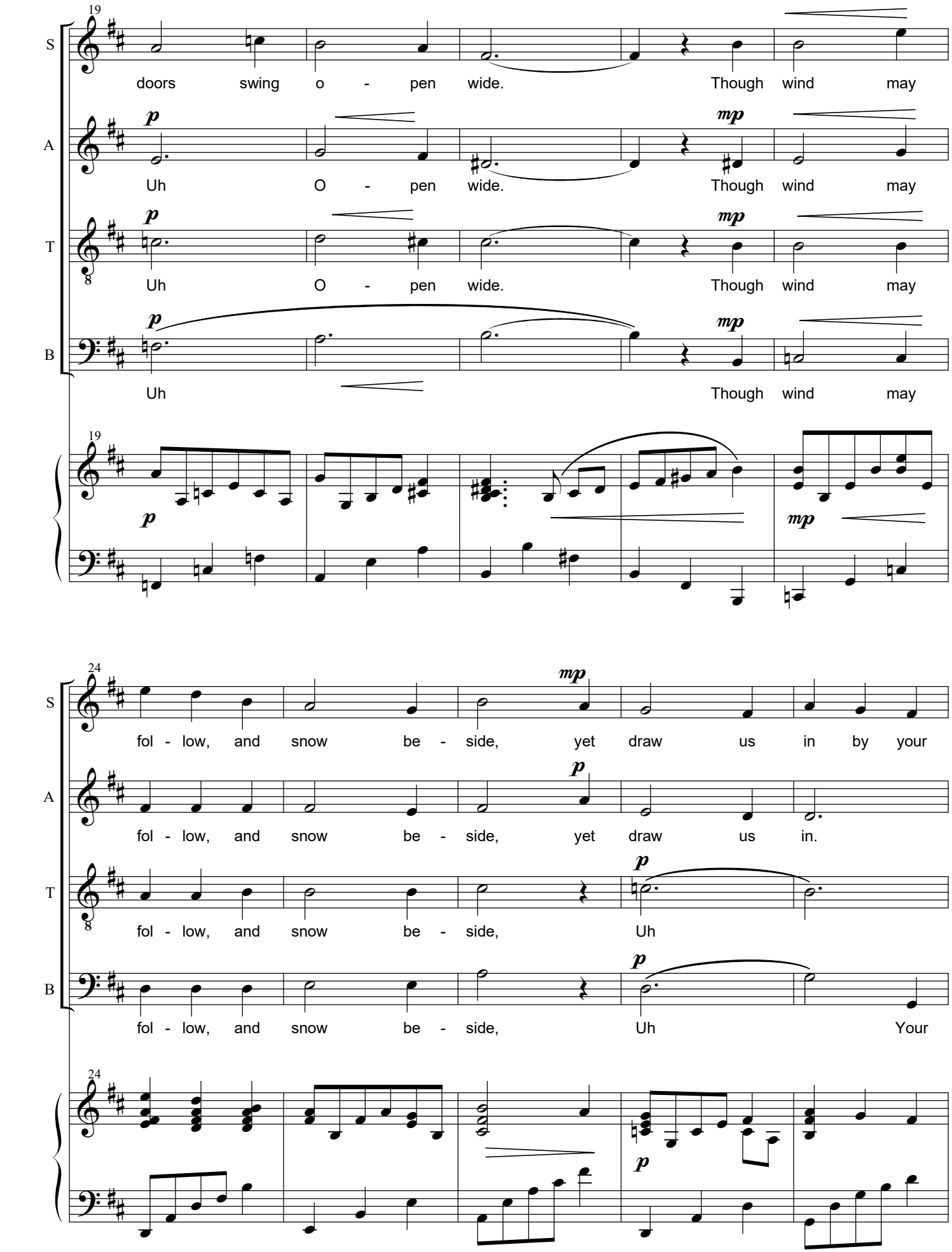

174
S
jol - ly, jol - ly, jol - ly, jol - ly.
A
jol - ly, jol - ly, jol - ly, jol - ly.
T
mf
wind. Blow, blow, blow, blow.
B
jol - - - - ly. Blow, blow,
174
178
S
f
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Blow, blow,
A
f
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Blow, blow,
T
f
Blow, blow, thou win - ter wind. Blow, blow,
B
f
blow. Blow, blow,
178
f

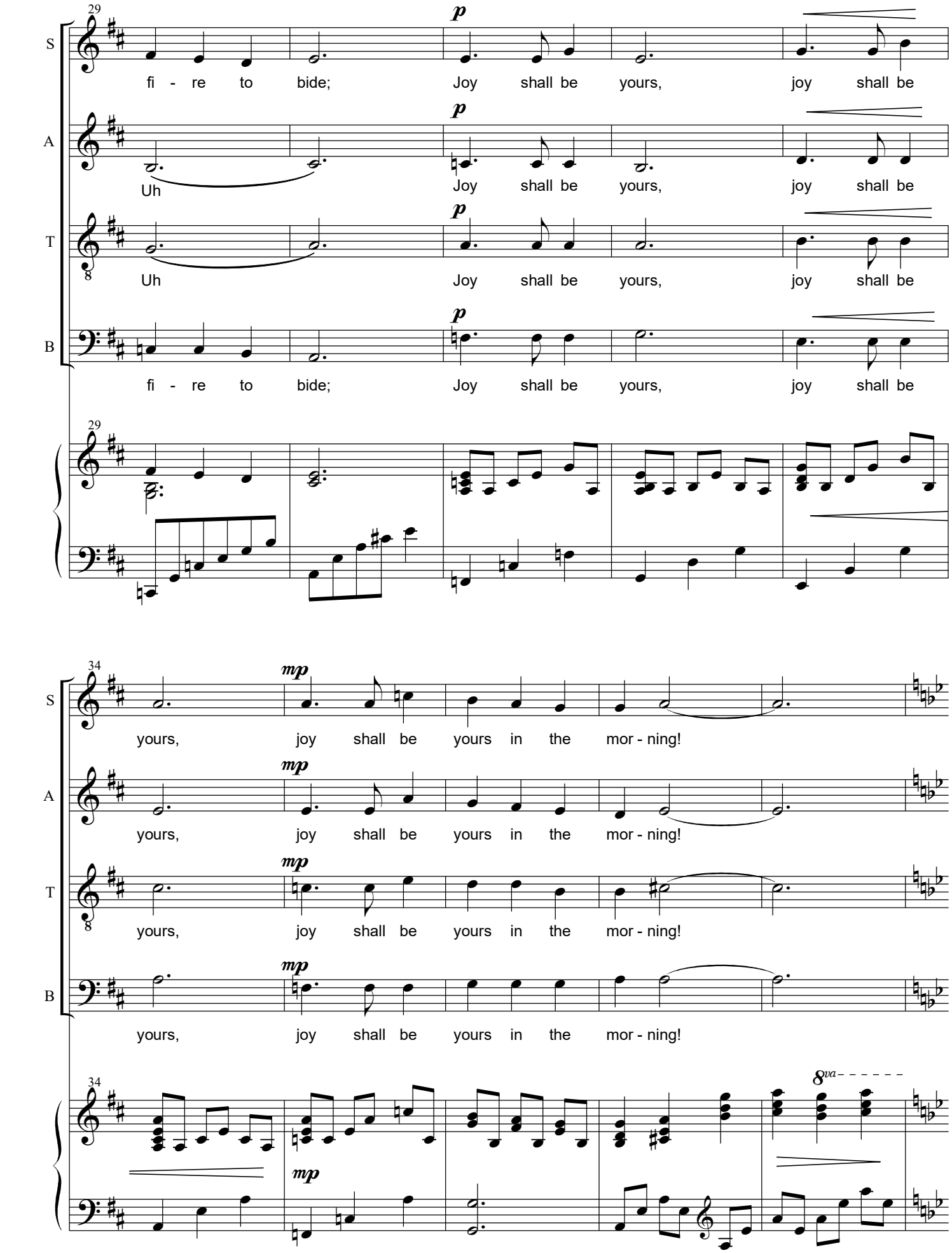

181
S
A
T
B
ff
blow.
Blow,
blow,
184
blow!

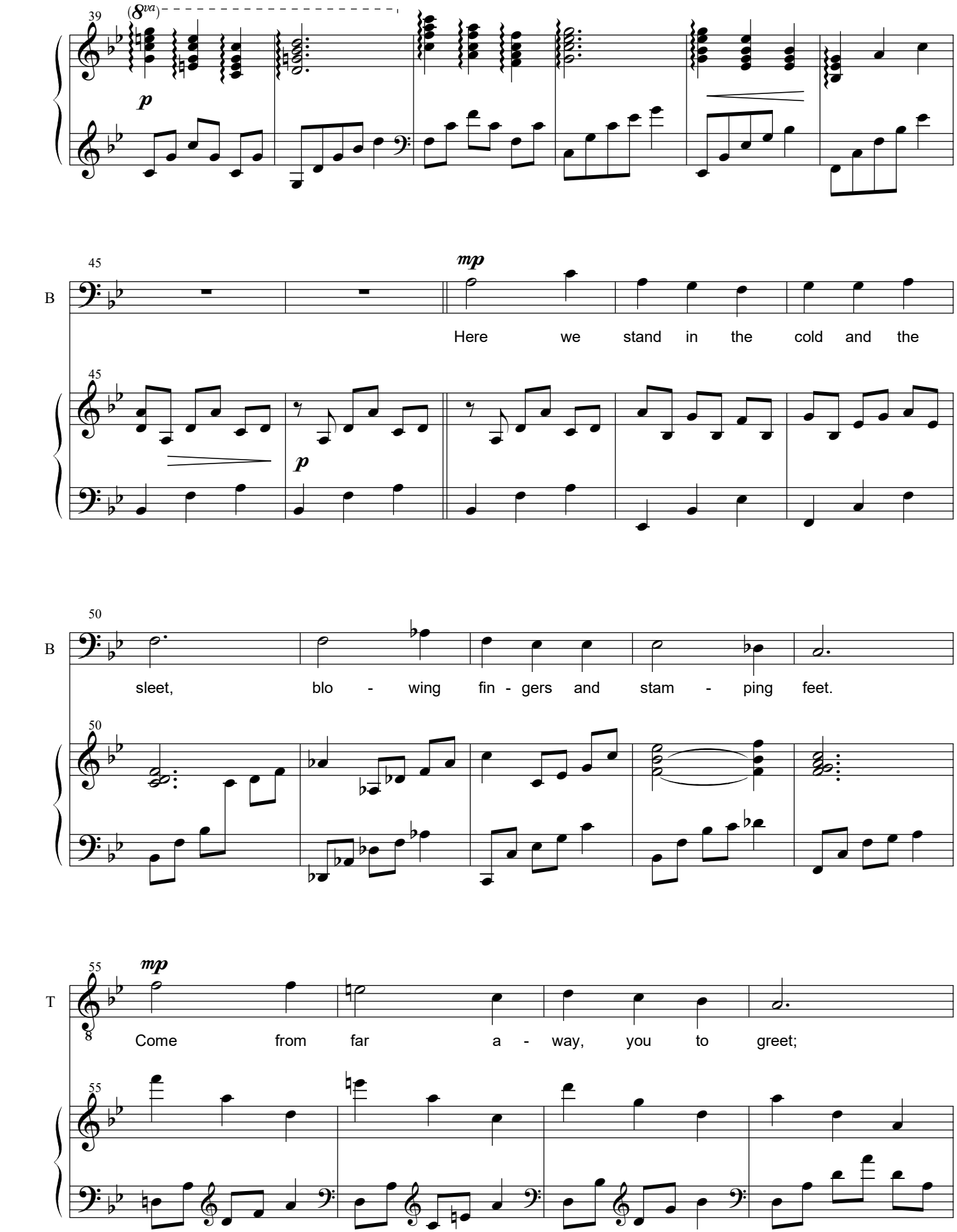
2. Carol

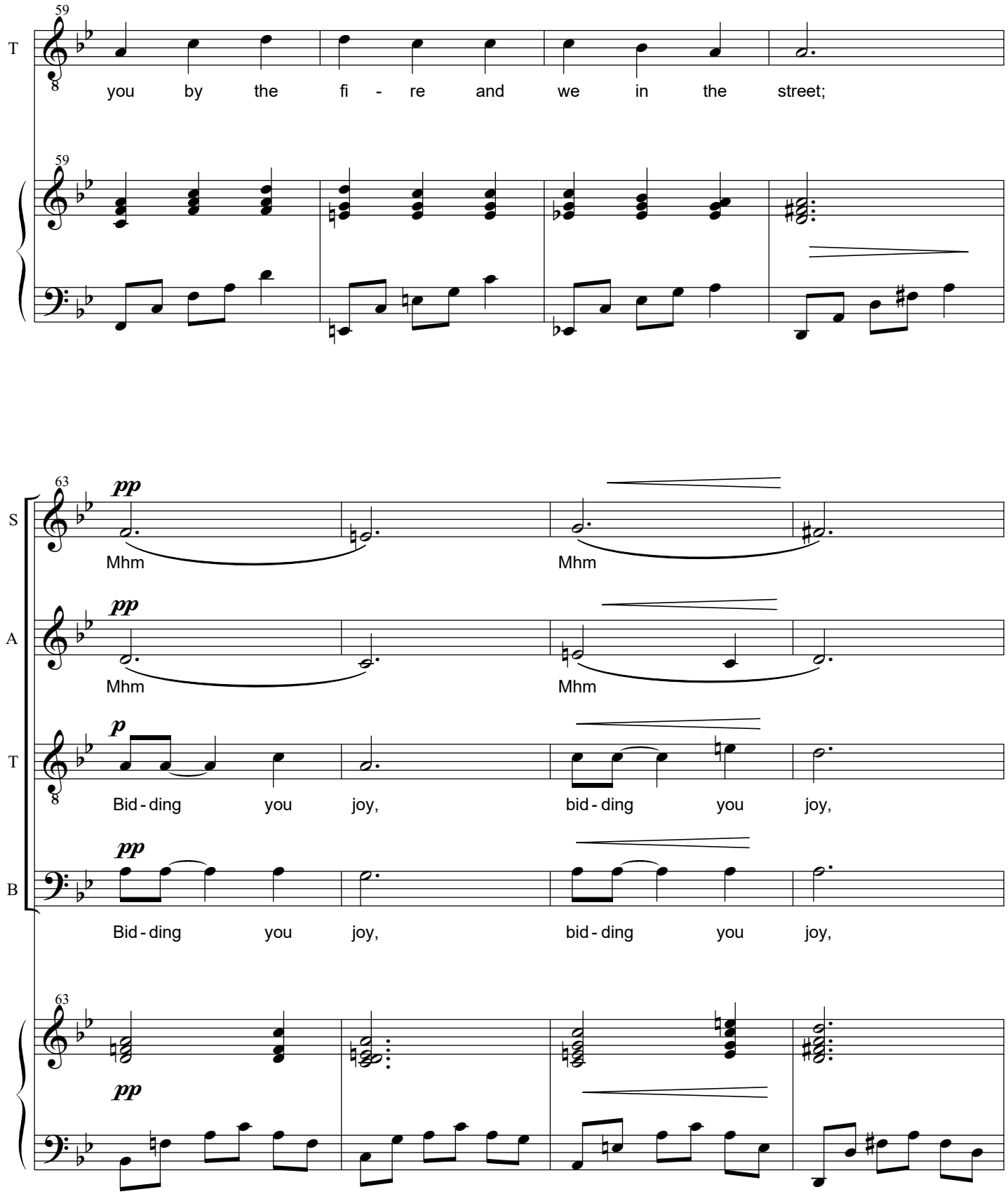
Kenneth Grahame 1908
taken from
"The Wind in the Willows"
Chapter 5

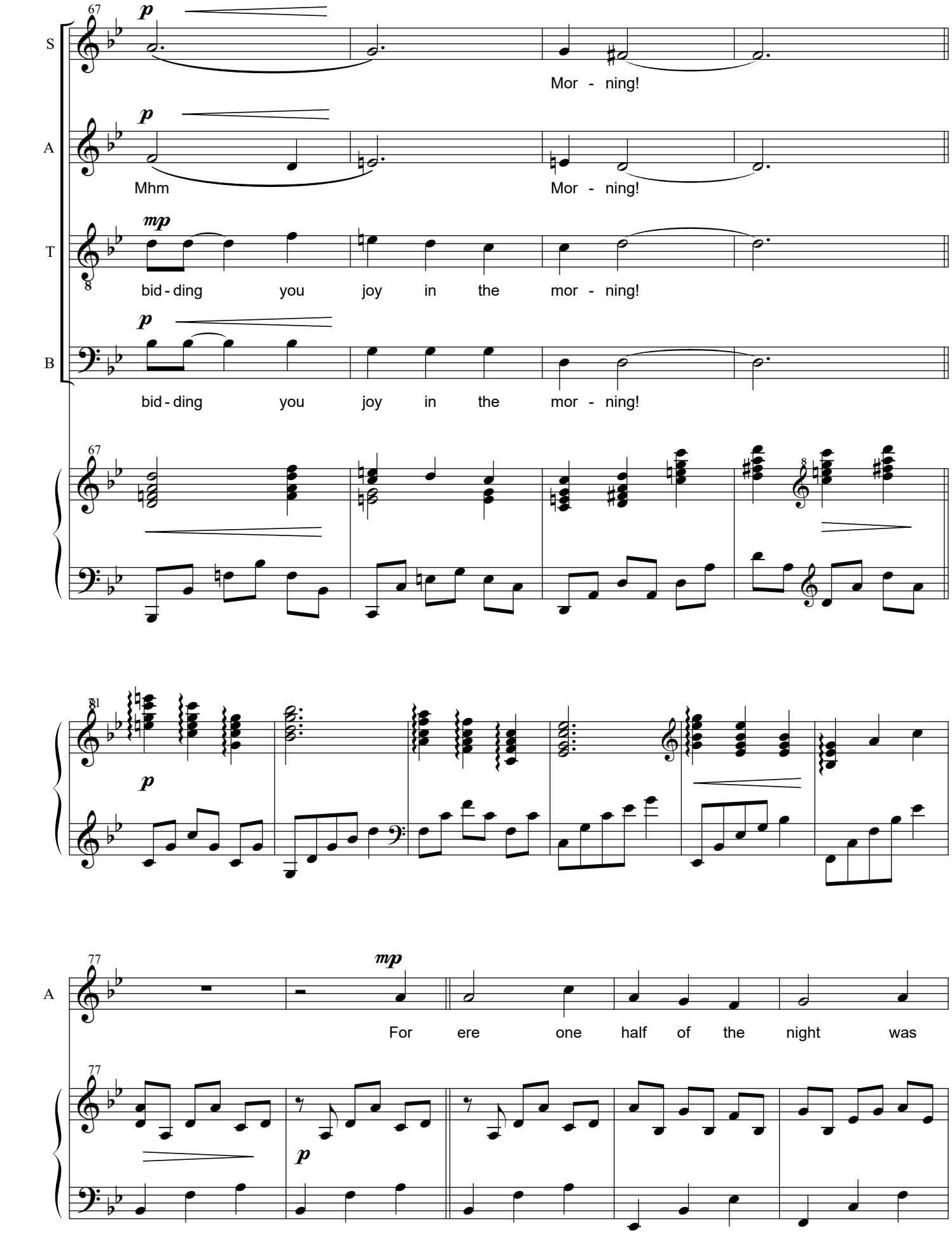


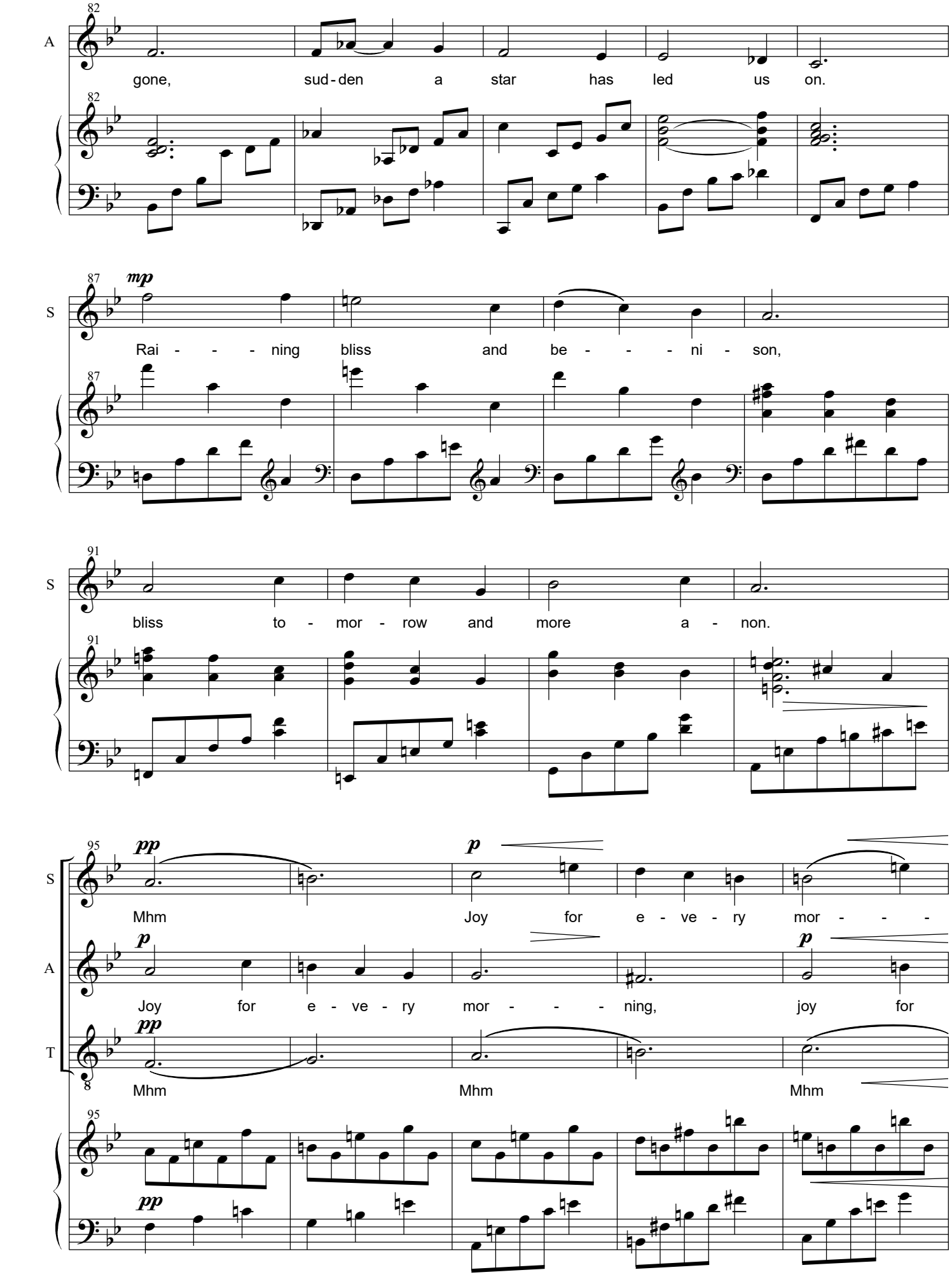

19
S
doors swing o - pen wide. Though wind may
A
p
Uh O - pen wide. mp Though wind may
T
p
Uh O - pen wide. mp Though wind may
B
p
Uh mp Though wind may
19
p
mp
24
S
fol - low, and snow be - side, mp yet draw us in by your
A
p
fol - low, and snow be - side, yet draw us in.
T
p
fol - low, and snow be - side, Uh
B
p
fol - low, and snow be - side, Uh Your
24
p

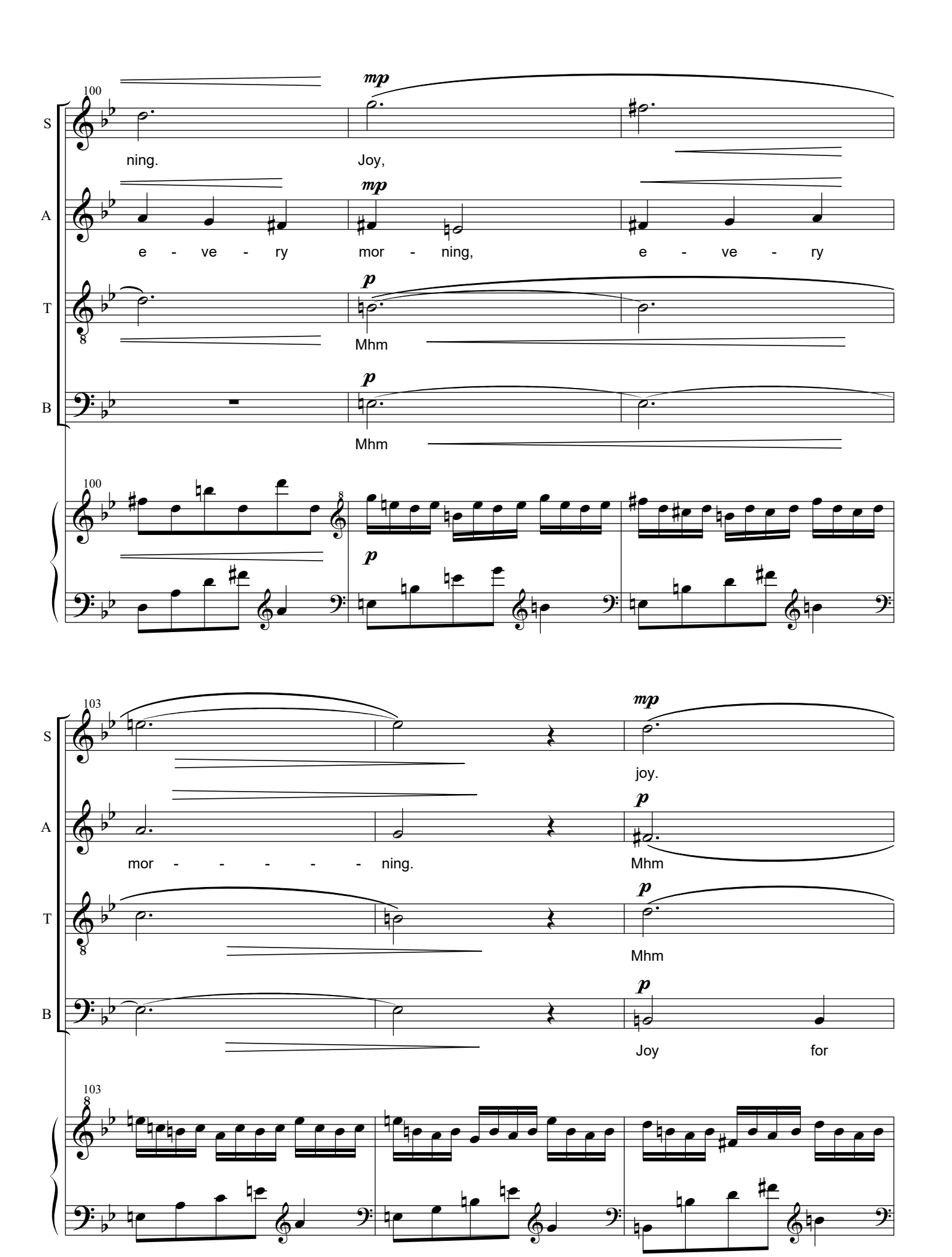

29
S
A
T
B
p
fi - re to bide; Joy shall be yours, joy shall be
Uh
Joy shall be yours, joy shall be
Uh
Joy shall be yours, joy shall be
fi - re to bide; Joy shall be yours, joy shall be
34
mp
yours, joy shall be yours in the mor - ning!
8va

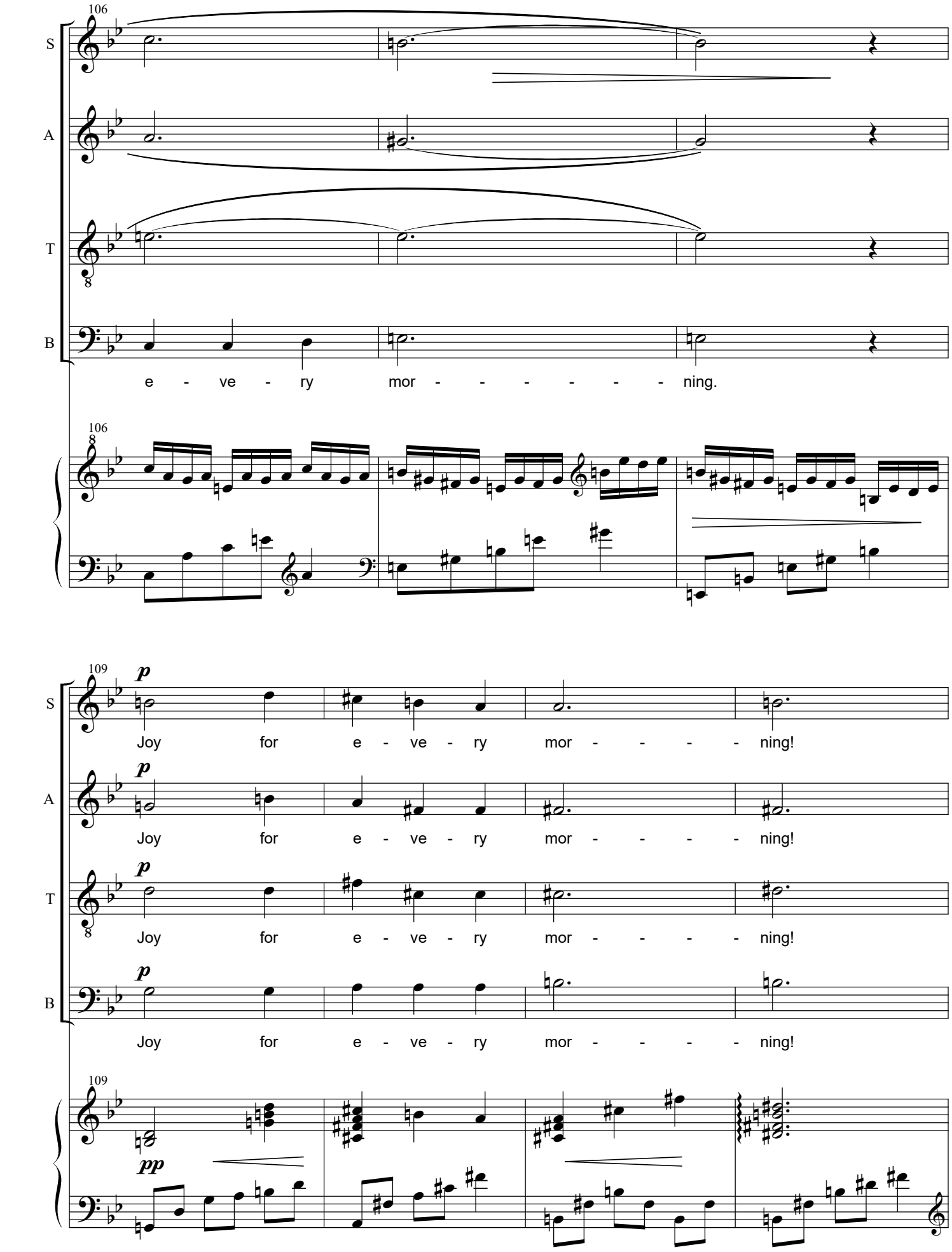

39
(8va)
p
45
B
mp
Here we stand in the cold and the
45
p
50
B
sleet, blo - wing fin - gers and stam - ping feet.
50
55
T
mp
Come from far a - way, you to greet;
55

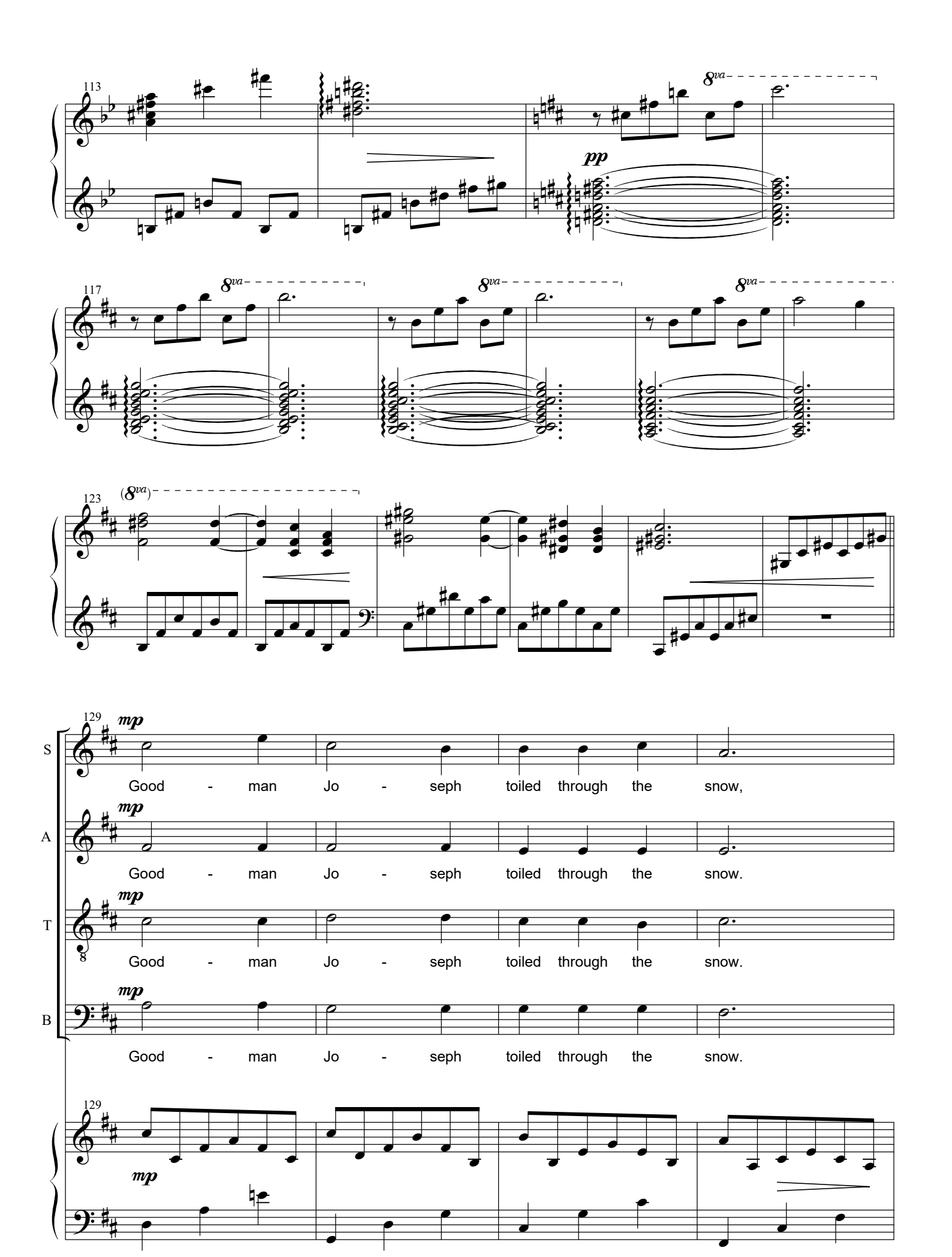

59
T
you by the fi - re and we in the street;
59
63
S
pp
Mhm
Mhm
A
pp
Mhm
Mhm
T
p
Bid - ding you joy, bid - ding you joy,
B
pp
Bid - ding you joy, bid - ding you joy,
63
pp

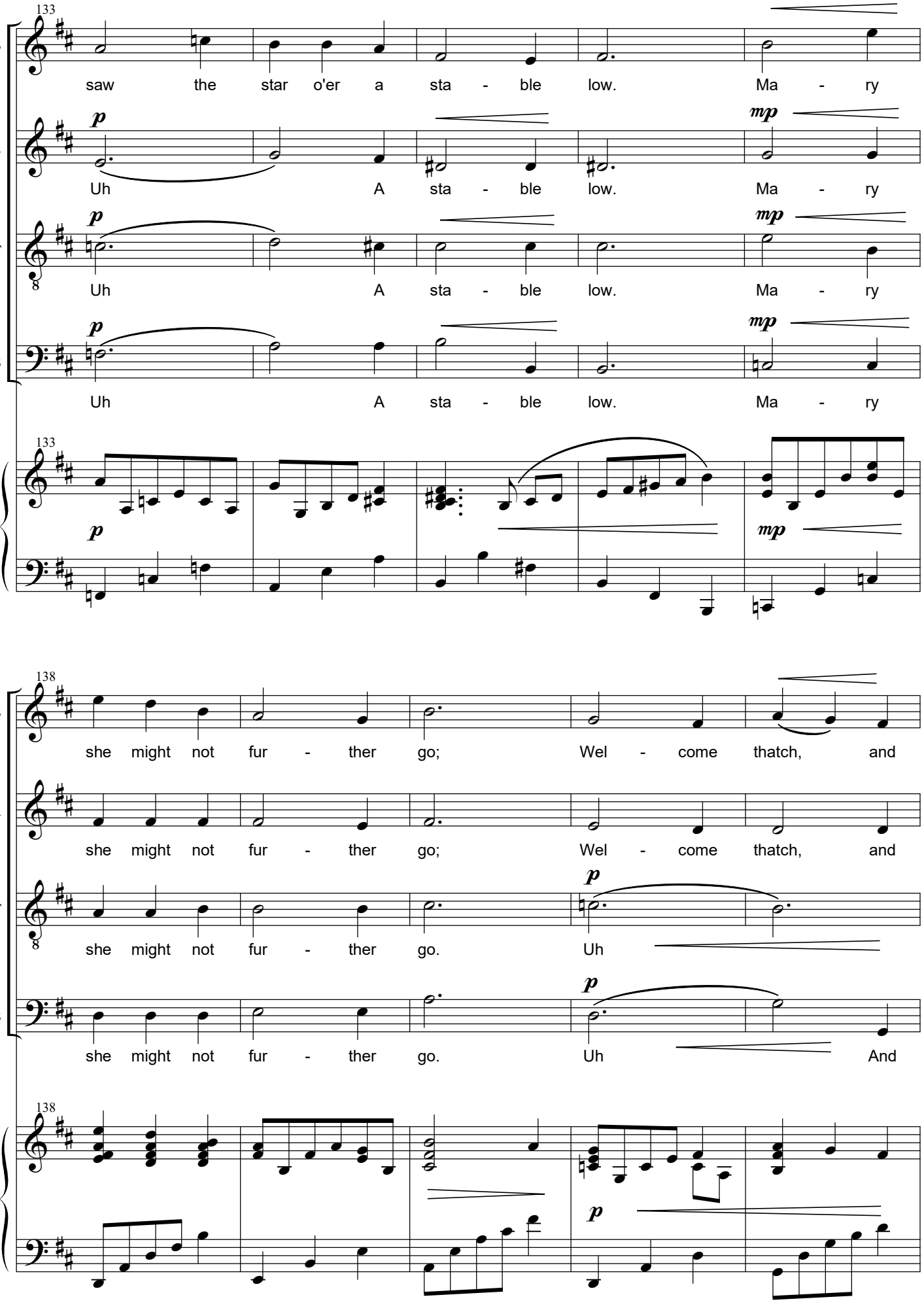

67
S
A
T
B
p
mp
Mor - ning!
Mhm
Mor - ning!
bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!
bid - ding you joy in the mor - ning!
81
77
For ere one half of the night was

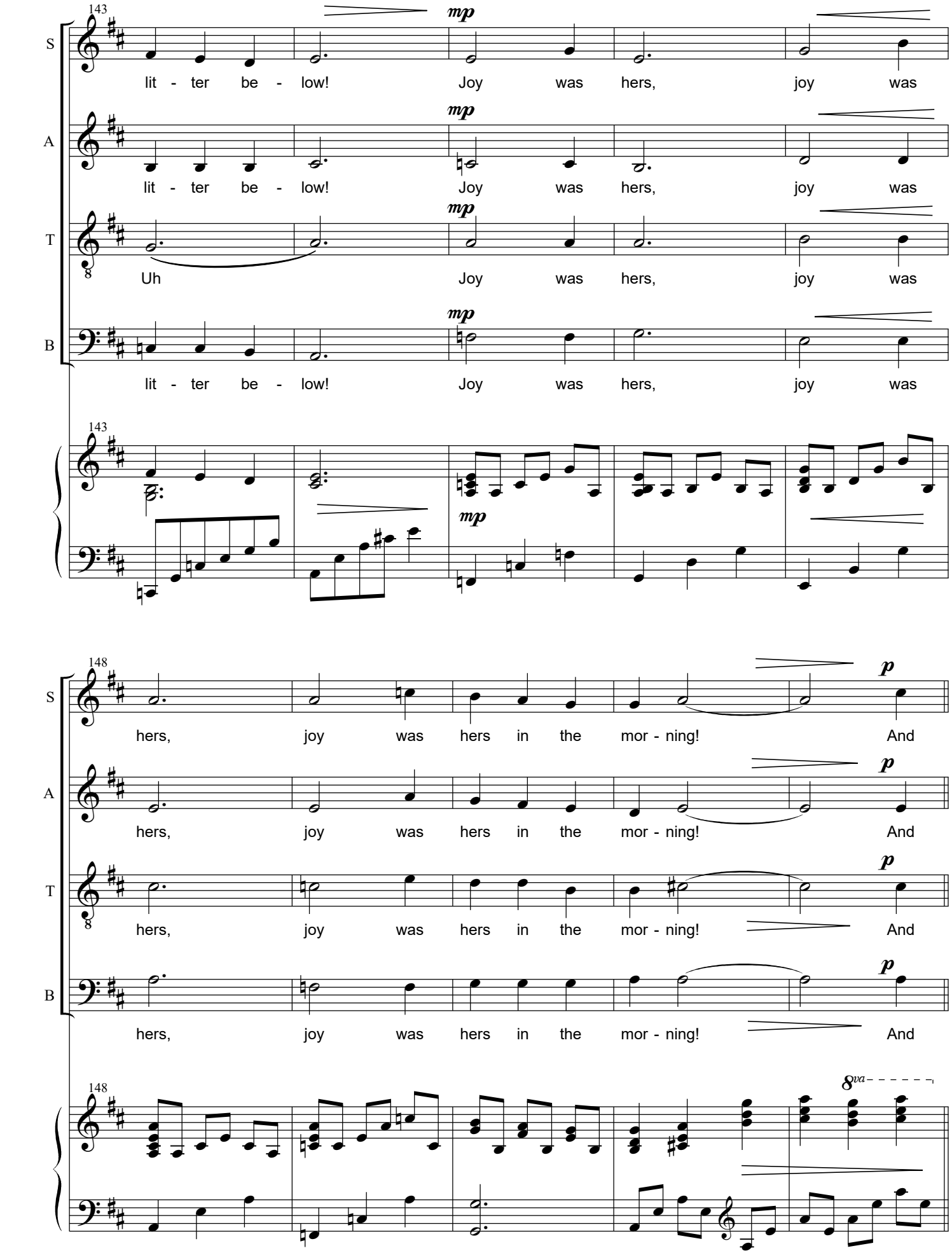

82
A
gone, sud - den a star has led us on.
82
87
mp
S
Rai - - - ning bliss and be - - - ni - son,
87
91
S
bliss to - mor - row and more a - non.
91
95
pp
p
S
Mhm Joy for e - ve - ry mor - - -
p
p
A
Joy for e - ve - ry mor - - - ning, joy for
pp
T
8
Mhm Mhm Mhm
95
pp

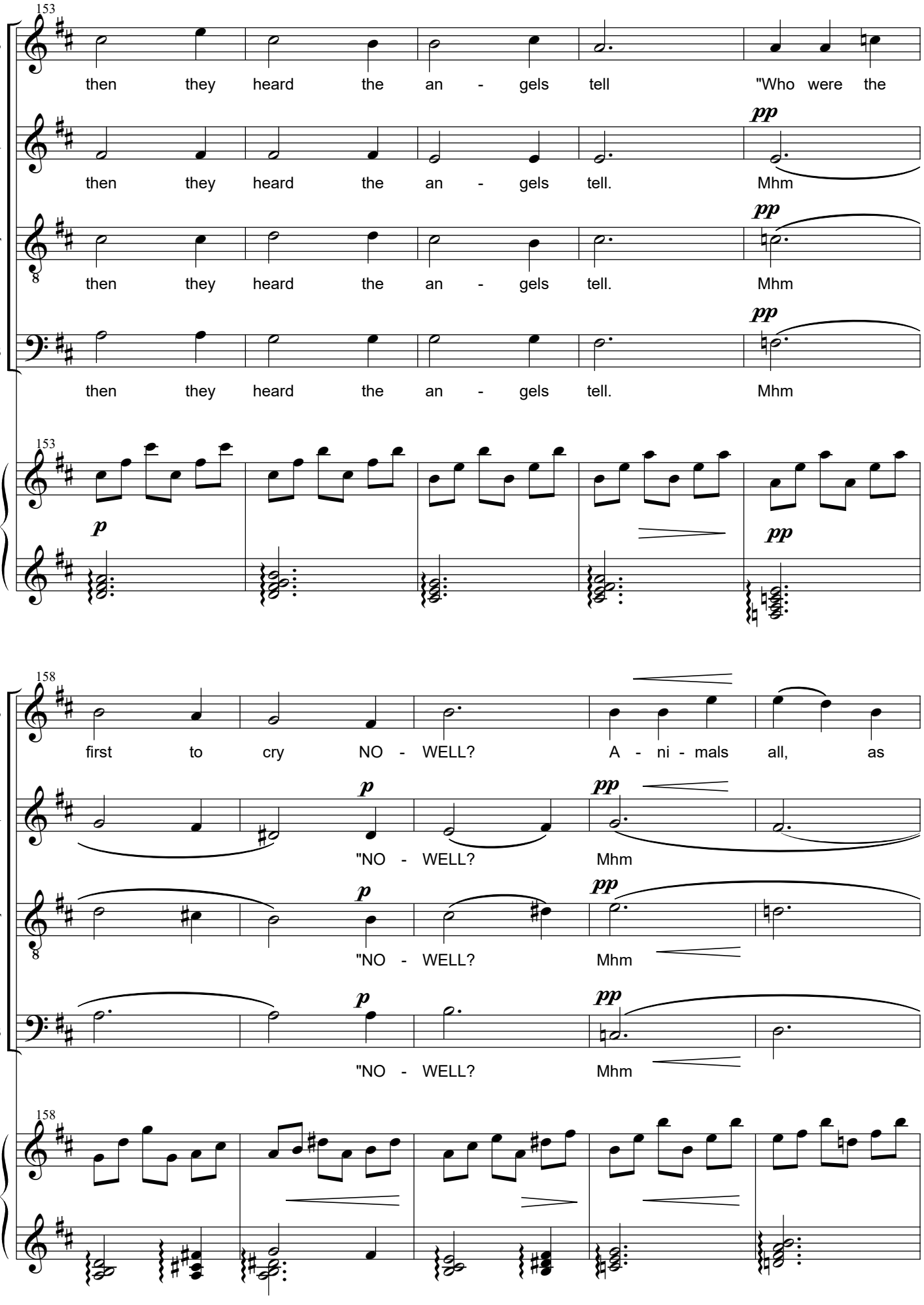

100
S
A
T
B
ning.
Joy,
e - ve - ry
mor - ning,
e - ve - ry
Mhm
Mhm
mp
p
103
joy.
mor - - - - - ning.
Mhm
Mhm
Joy
for

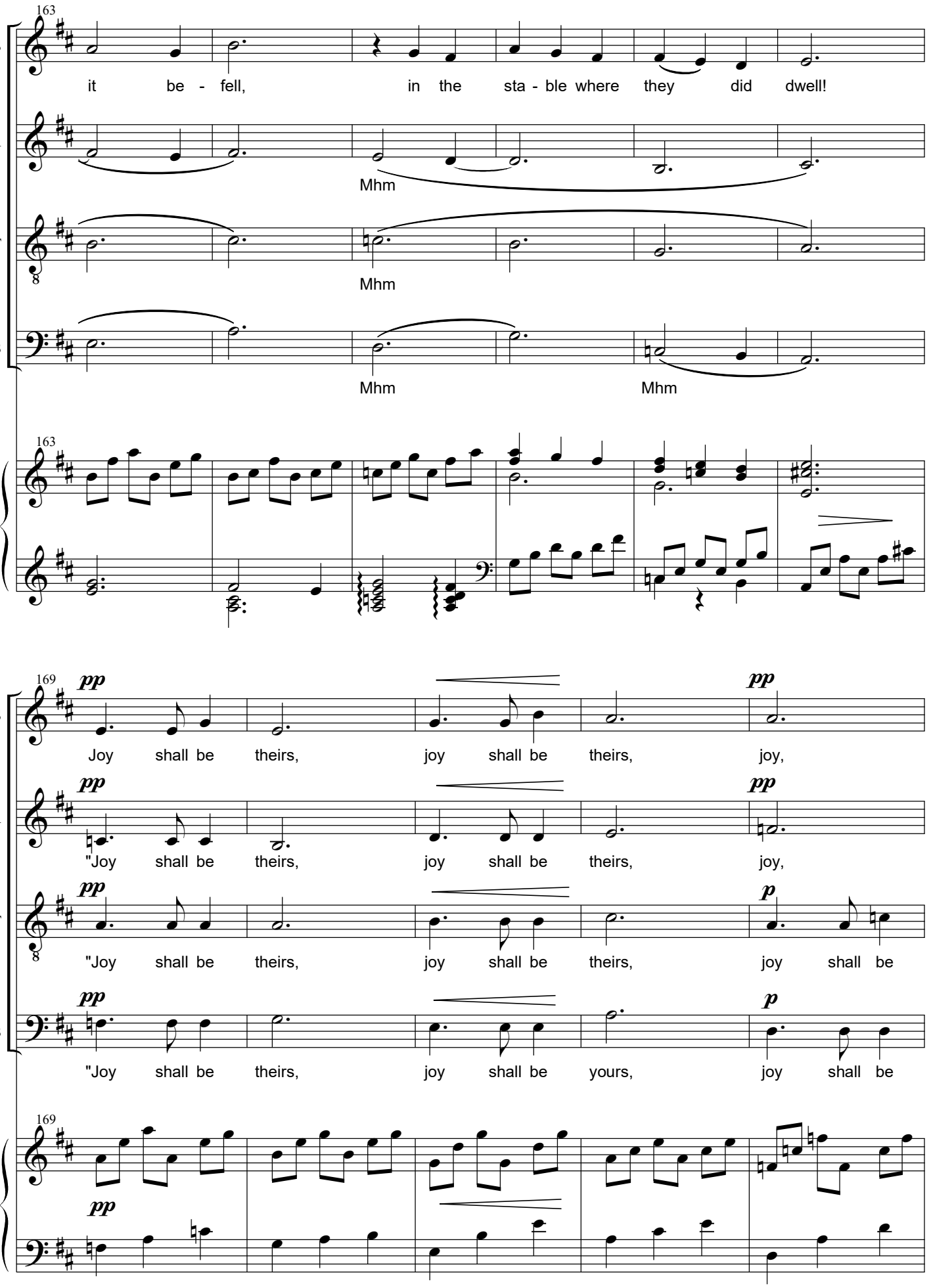

106
S
A
T
B
e - ve - ry mor - - - - - - ning.
106
109
p
Joy for e - ve - ry mor - - - - ning!
p
Joy for e - ve - ry mor - - - - ning!
p
Joy for e - ve - ry mor - - - - ning!
p
Joy for e - ve - ry mor - - - - ning!
109
pp

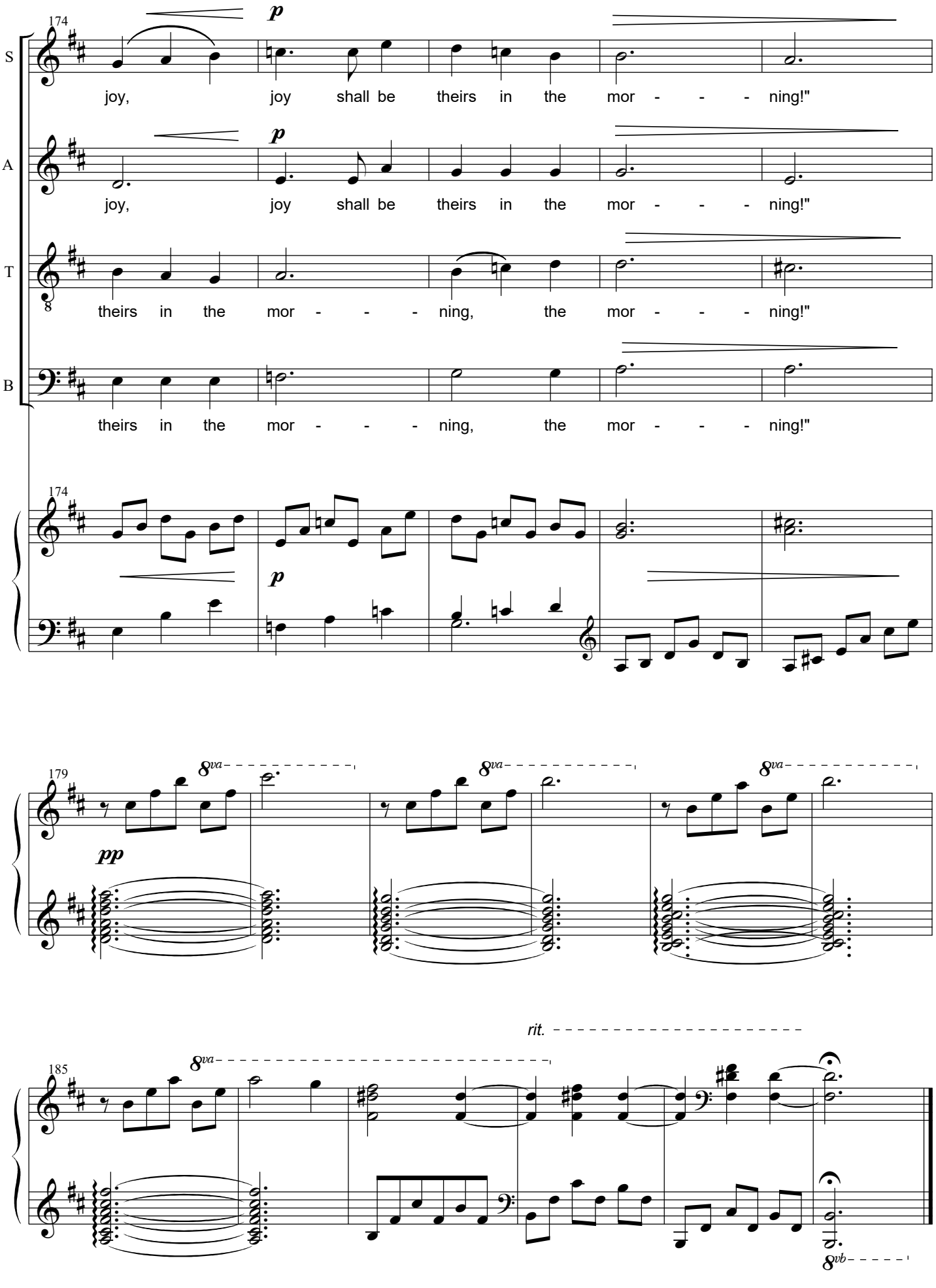

113
8va
pp
117
8va
8va
8va
123
(8va)
129
mp
S
Good - man Jo - seph toiled through the snow,
A
Good - man Jo - seph toiled through the snow.
T
Good - man Jo - seph toiled through the snow.
B
Good - man Jo - seph toiled through the snow.
129
mp


133
S
saw the star o'er a sta - ble low. Ma - ry
A
p
Uh A sta - ble low. Ma - ry
mp
T
p
Uh A sta - ble low. Ma - ry
mp
B
p
Uh A sta - ble low. Ma - ry
mp
133
p
mp
138
S
she might not fur - ther go; Wel - come thatch, and
A
she might not fur - ther go; Wel - come thatch, and
T
p
she might not fur - ther go. Uh
B
p
she might not fur - ther go. Uh And
138
p


143
S
A
T
B
mp
lit - ter be - low! Joy was hers, joy was
Uh Joy was hers, joy was
148
p
hers, joy was hers in the mor - ning! And
8va


153
S
then they heard the an - gels tell "Who were the
A
then they heard the an - gels tell. Mhm
T
then they heard the an - gels tell. Mhm
B
then they heard the an - gels tell. Mhm
pp
p
158
first to cry NO - WELL? A - ni - mals all, as
"NO - WELL? Mhm

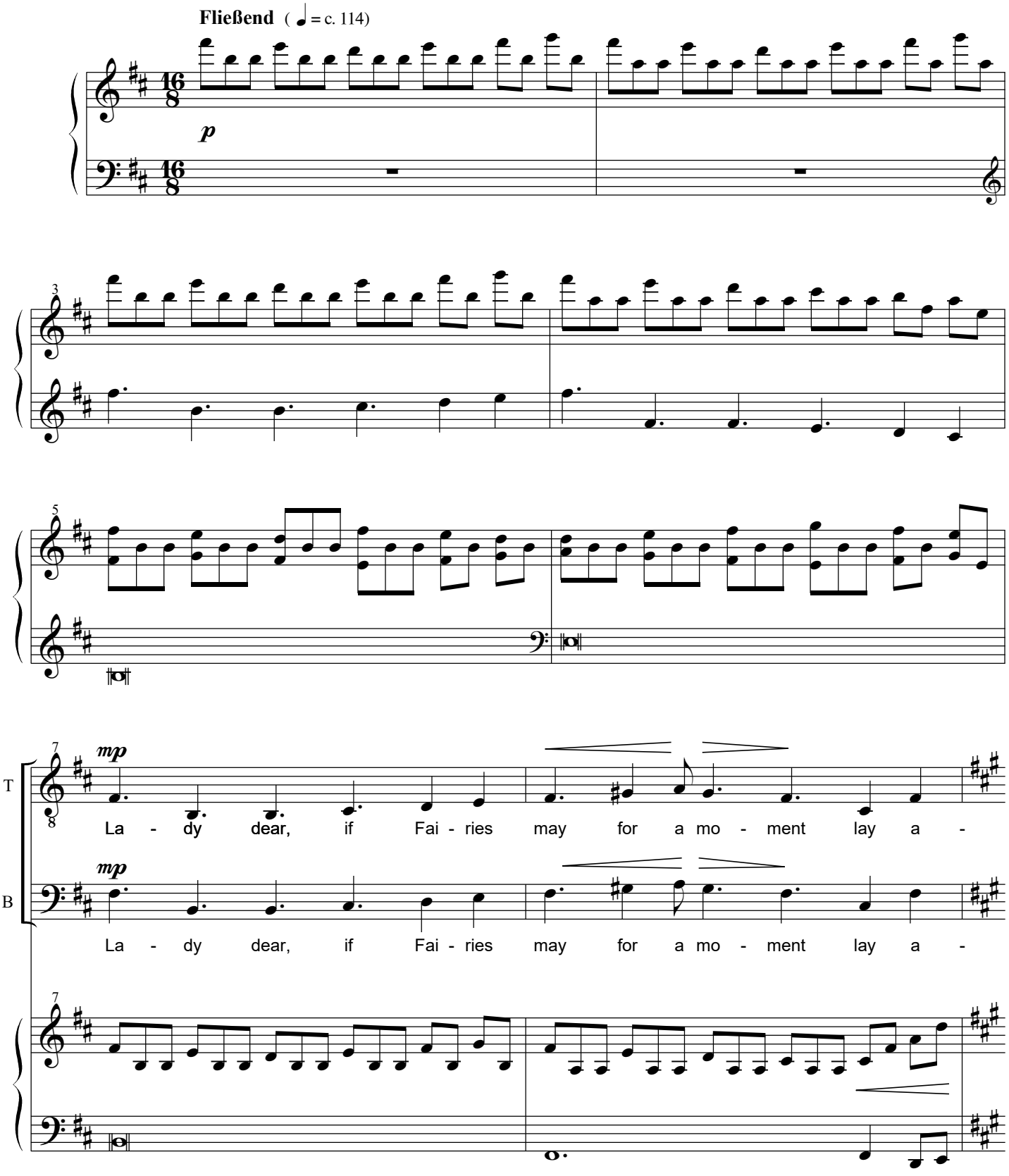

163
S
it be - fell, in the sta - ble where they did dwell!
A
Mhm
T
Mhm
B
Mhm
Mhm
163
169
pp
S
Joy shall be theirs, joy shall be theirs, joy,
pp
A
"Joy shall be theirs, joy shall be theirs, joy,
pp
T
"Joy shall be theirs, joy shall be theirs, joy shall be
p
pp
B
"Joy shall be theirs, joy shall be yours, joy shall be
p
169
pp

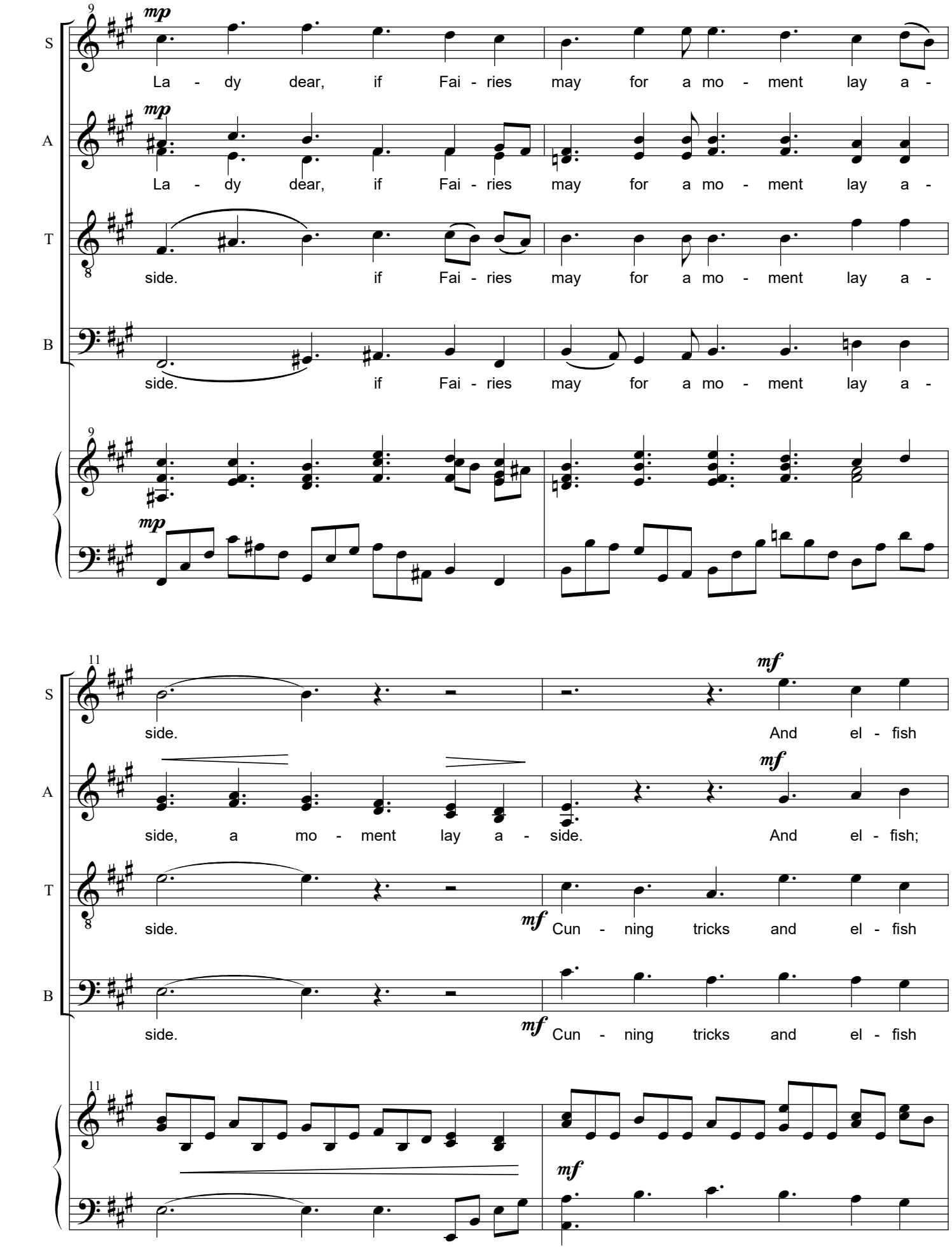

174
S
A
T
B
p
joy, joy shall be theirs in the mor - - - ning!"
joy, joy shall be theirs in the mor - - - ning!"
theirs in the mor - - - ning, the mor - - - ning!"
theirs in the mor - - - ning, the mor - - - ning!"
174
p
179
8va
pp
185
rit.
8vb

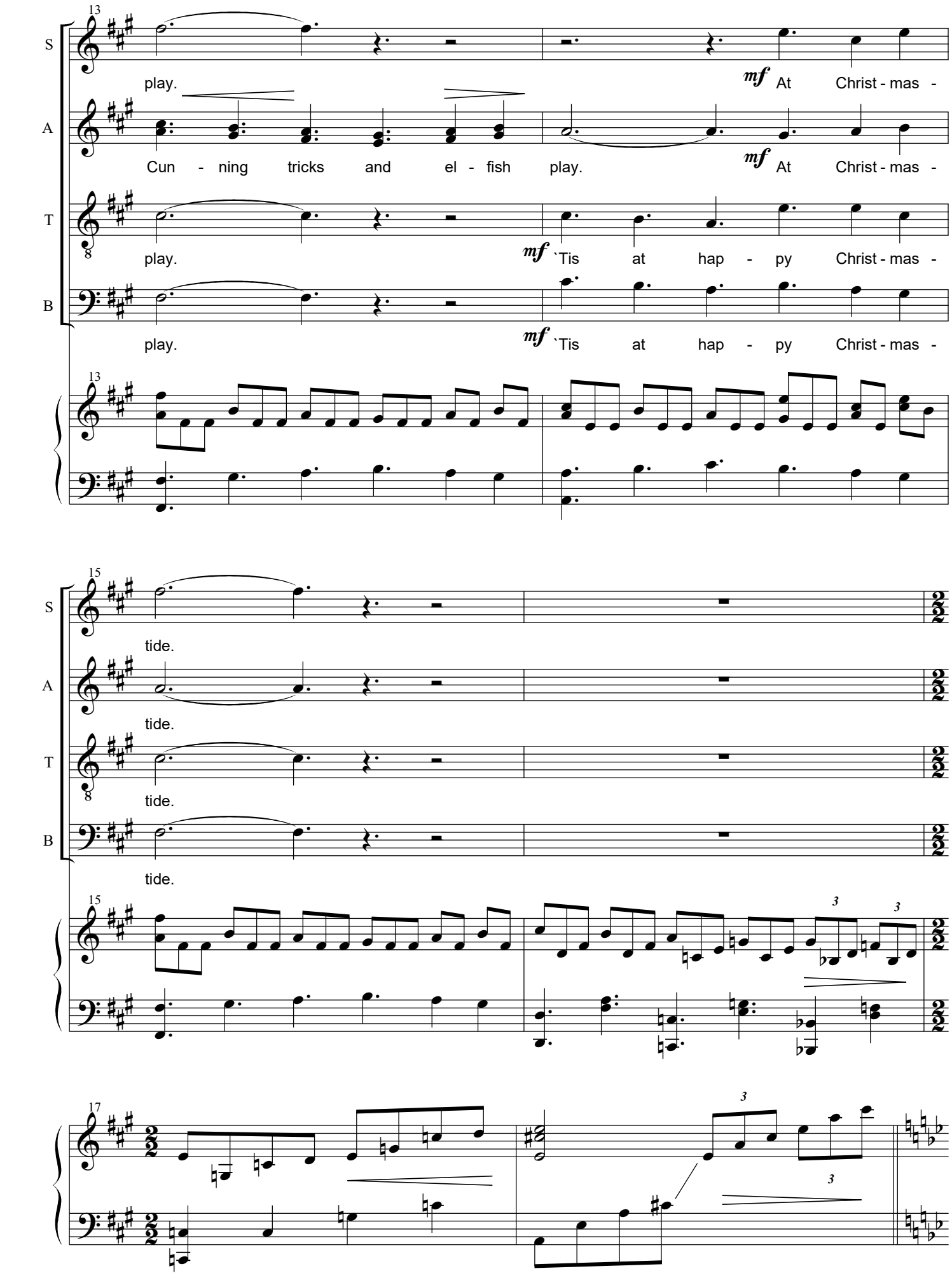
3. Christmas Greetings

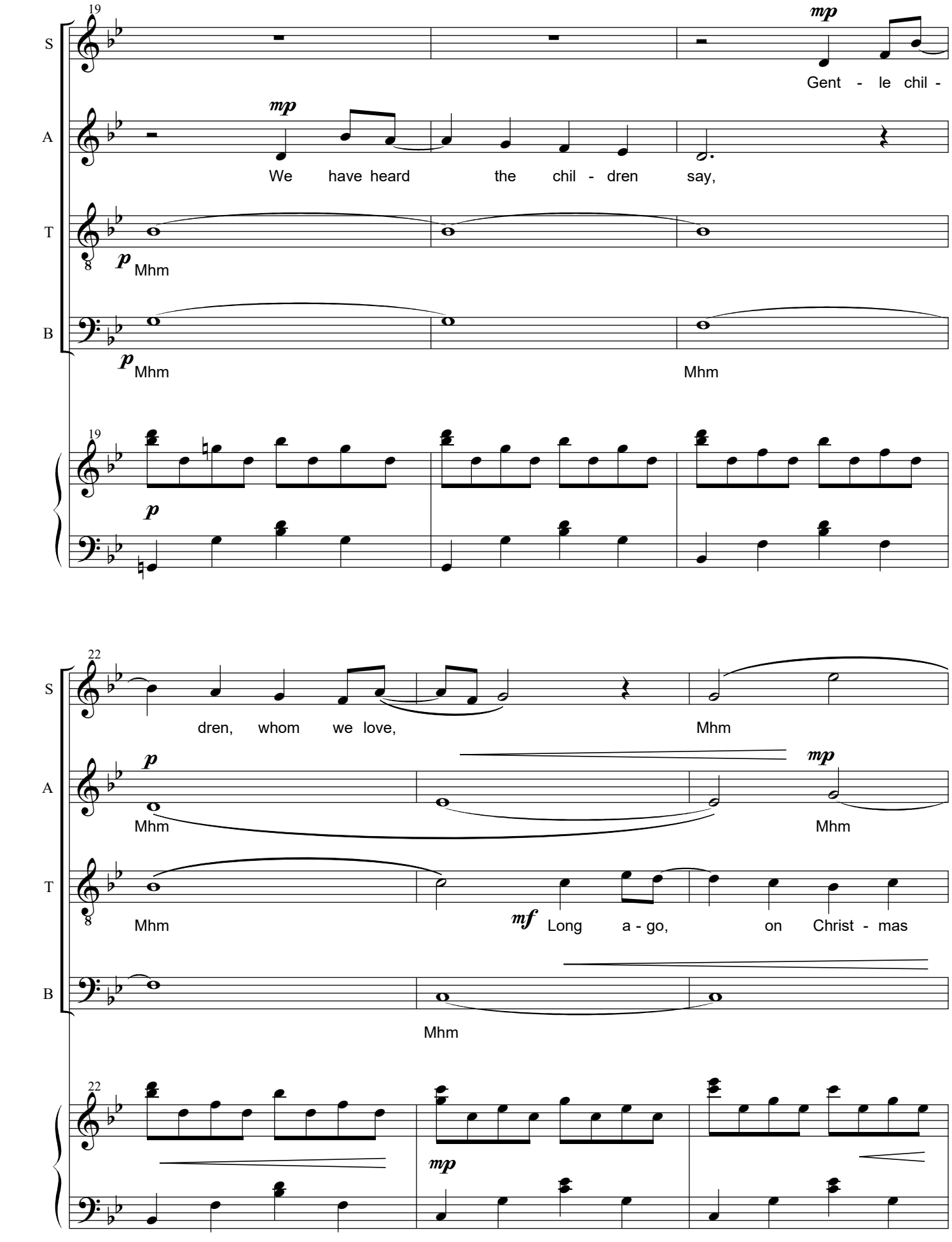
From a Fairy to a Child

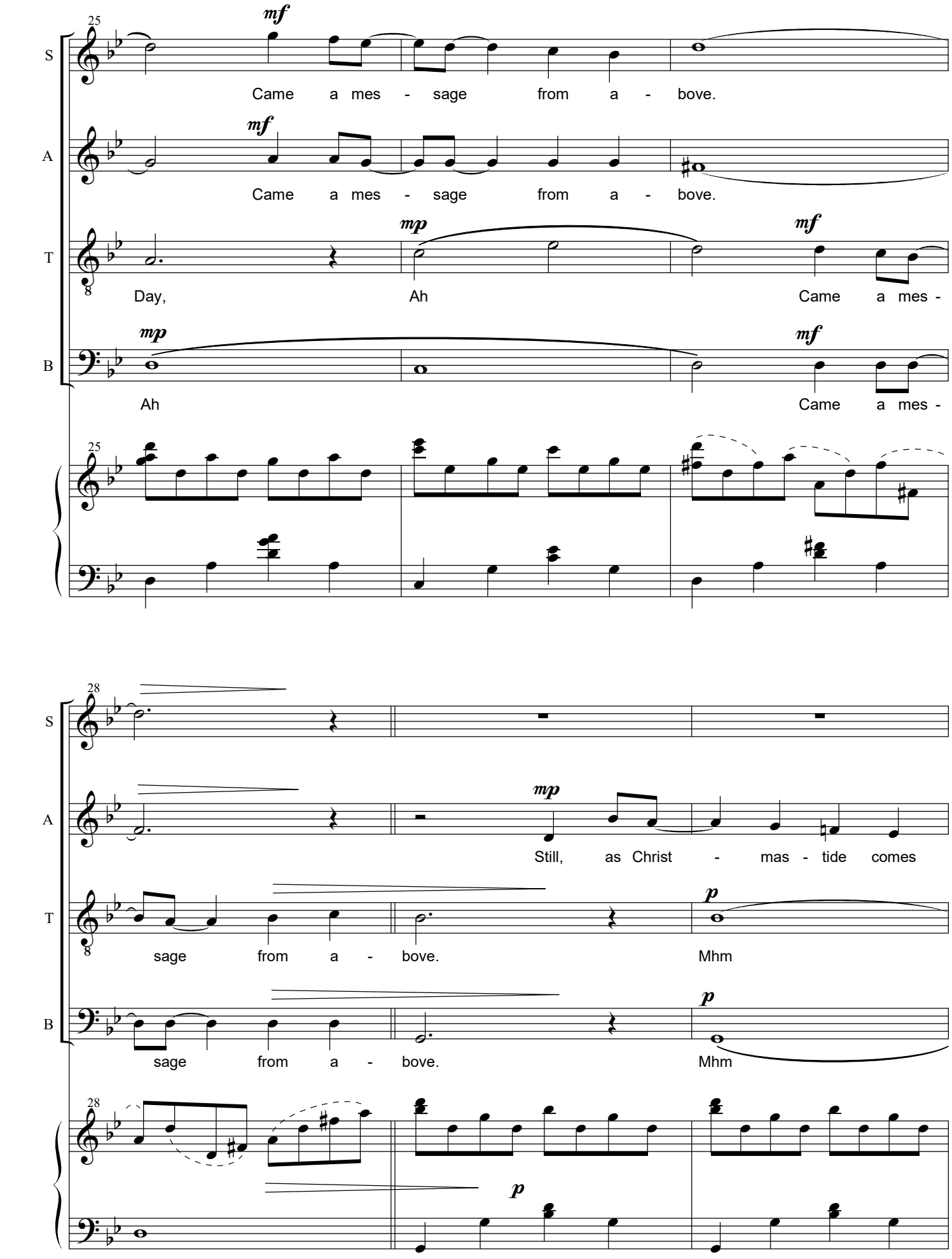
Lewis Carroll 1887
taken from
"Alice´s Adventures Underground"

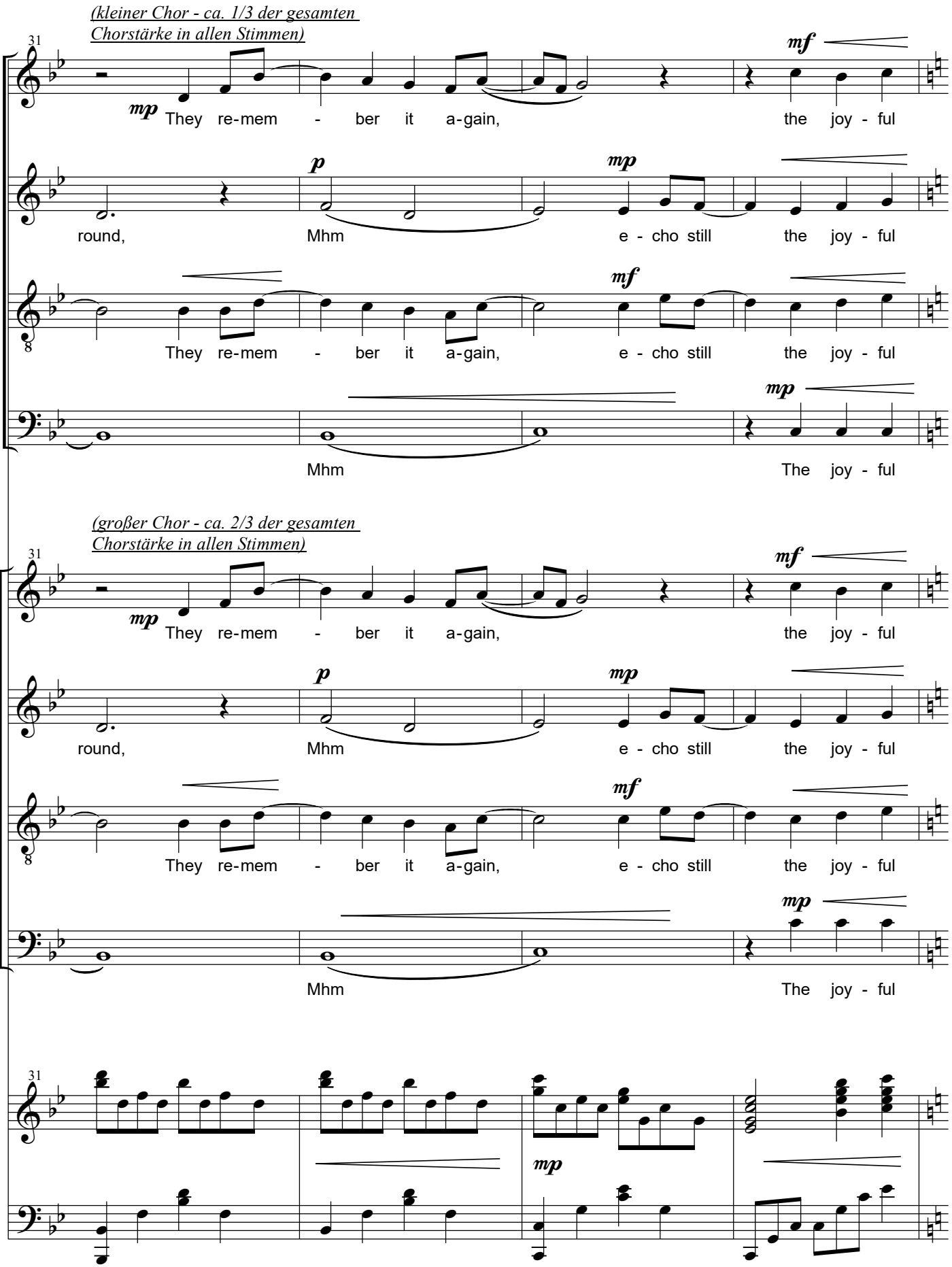


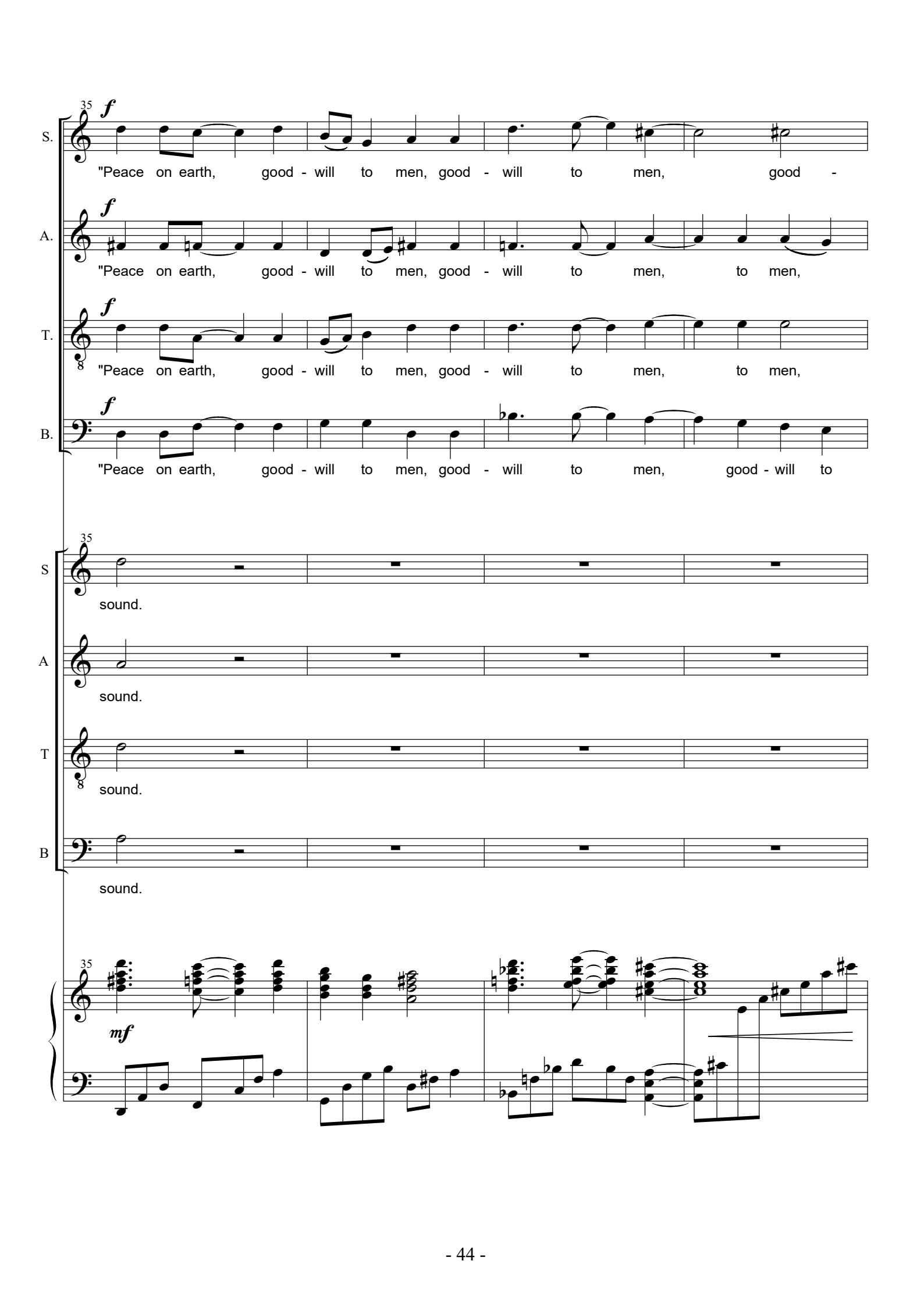

9
mp
S
La - dy dear, if Fai - ries may for a mo - ment lay a -
A
La - dy dear, if Fai - ries may for a mo - ment lay a -
T
side. if Fai - ries may for a mo - ment lay a -
B
side. if Fai - ries may for a mo - ment lay a -
11
mf
side. And el - fish
side, a mo - ment lay a - side. And el - fish;
side. Cun - ning tricks and el - fish
side. Cun - ning tricks and el - fish

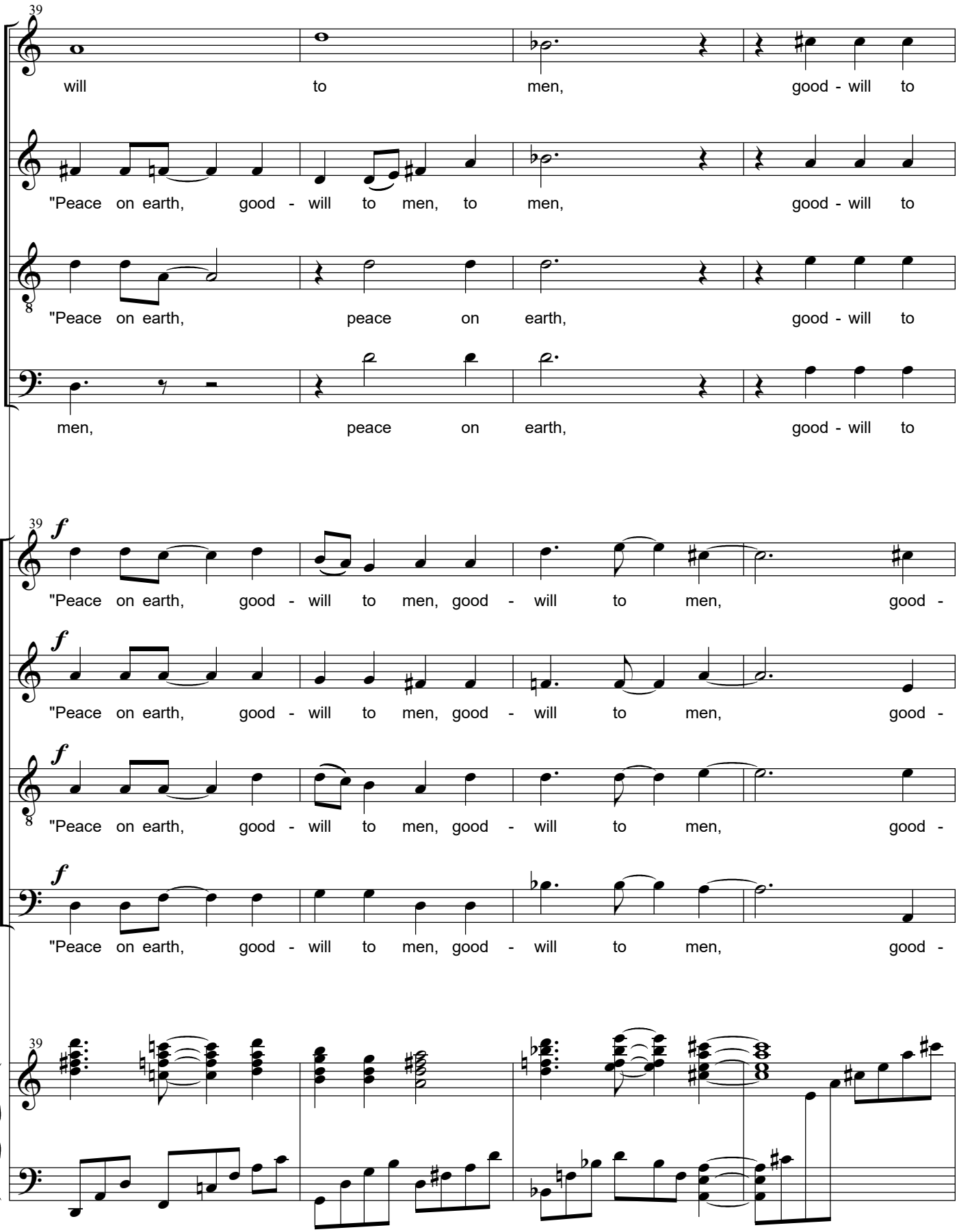

13
S
play.
mf At Christ - mas -
A
Cun - ning tricks and el - fish play.
mf At Christ - mas -
T
play.
mf `Tis at hap - py Christ - mas -
B
play.
mf `Tis at hap - py Christ - mas -
15
tide.
17
3


19
S
A
T
B
mp
Gent - le chil -
We have heard the chil - dren say,
p
Mhm
Mhm
Mhm
22
dren, whom we love,
Mhm
Mhm
Mhm
Mhm
mf
Long a - go, on Christ - mas
Mhm
mp

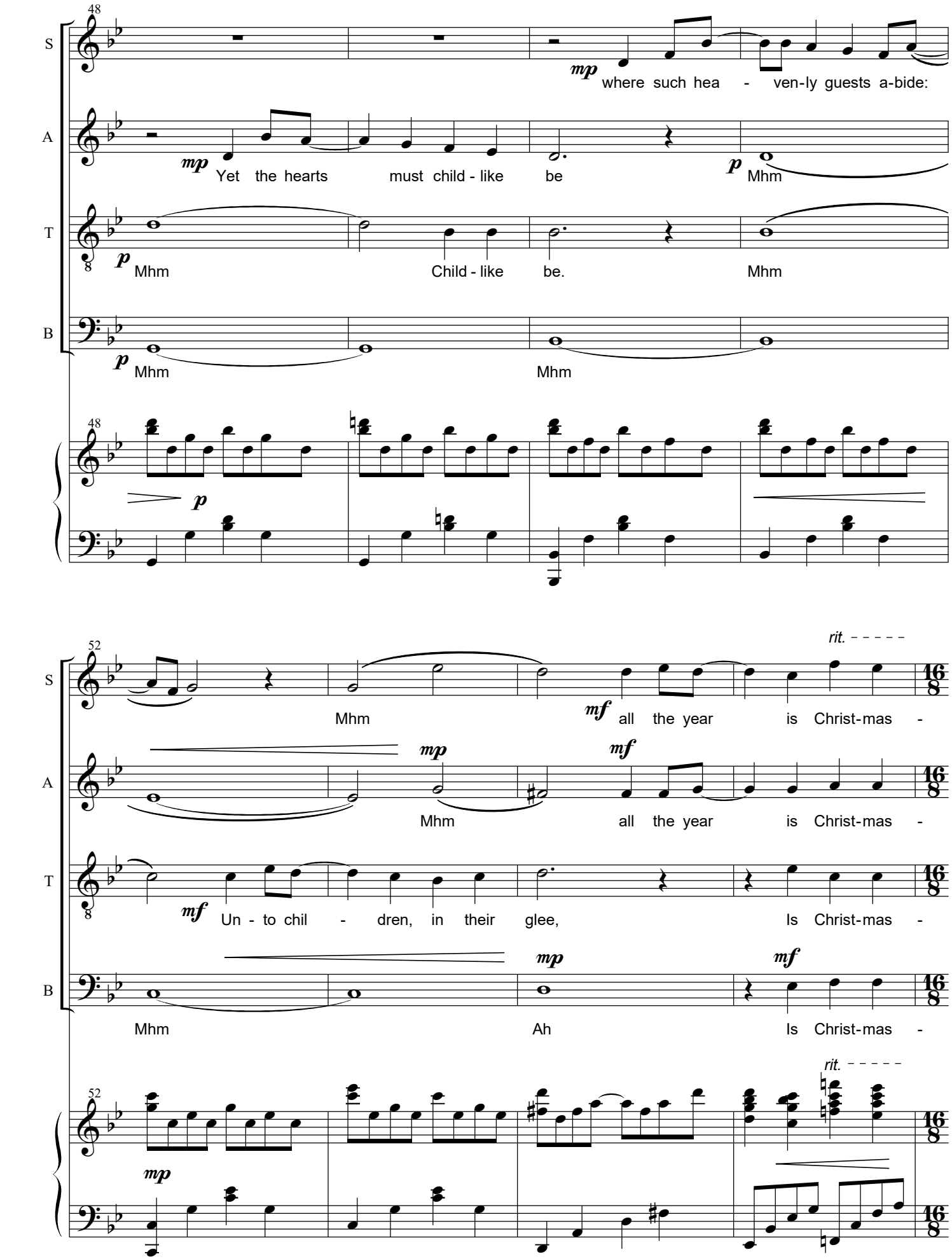

25
S
A
T
B
mf
Came a mes - sage from a - bove.
mf
Came a mes - sage from a - bove.
mp
mf
Day, Ah Came a mes -
mp
mf
Ah Came a mes -
28
mp
Still, as Christ - mas - tide comes
p
sage from a - bove. Mhm
p
sage from a - bove. Mhm
p

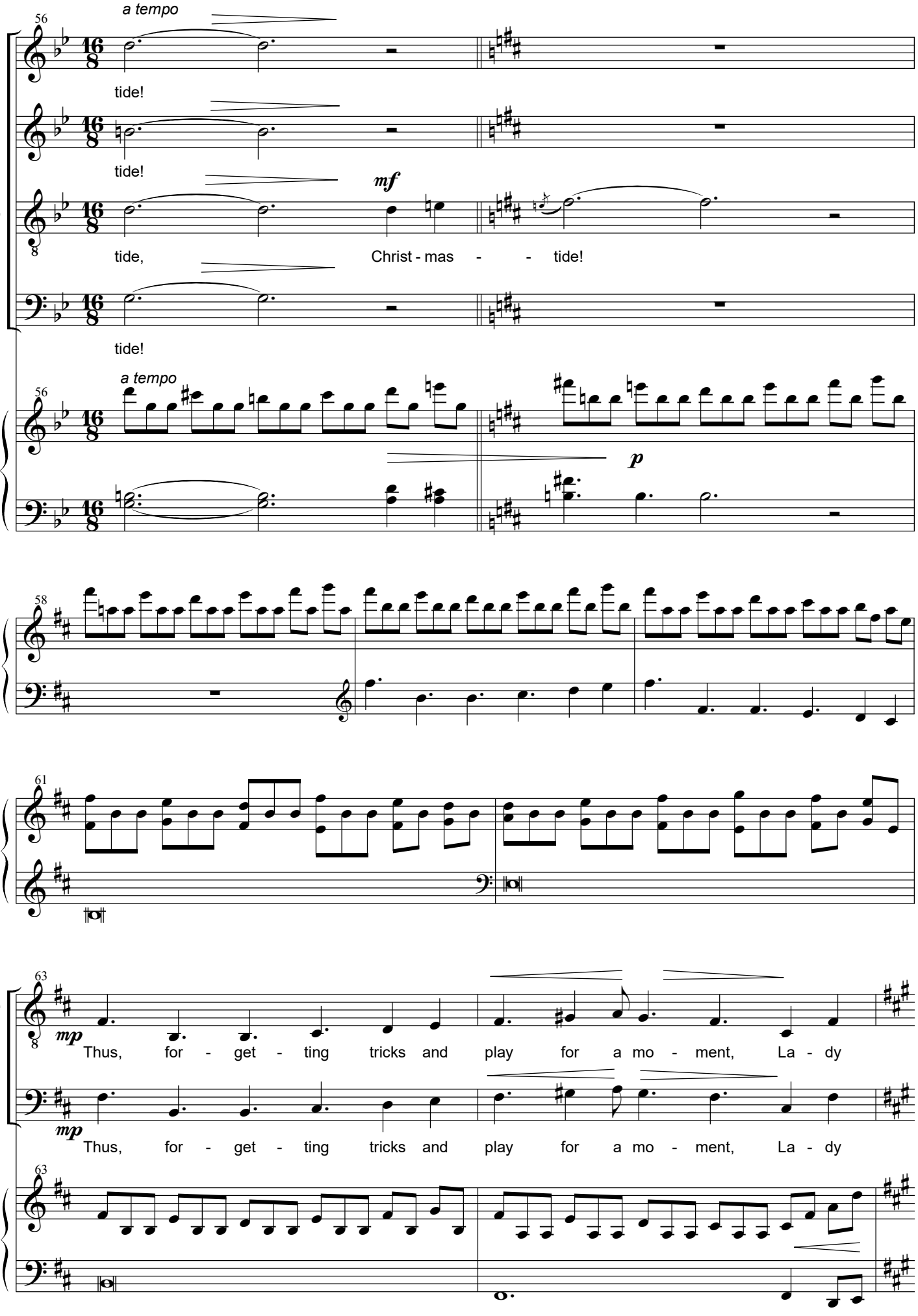

(kleiner Chor - ca. 1/3 der gesamten Chorstärke in allen Stimmen)
31
S.
A.
T.
B.
mp
They re-mem - ber it a-gain,
the joy - ful
p
round,
Mhm
mp
e - cho still
mf
They re-mem - ber it a-gain,
e - cho still
the joy - ful
mp
Mhm
The joy - ful
(großer Chor - ca. 2/3 der gesamten Chorstärke in allen Stimmen)
S
A
T
B

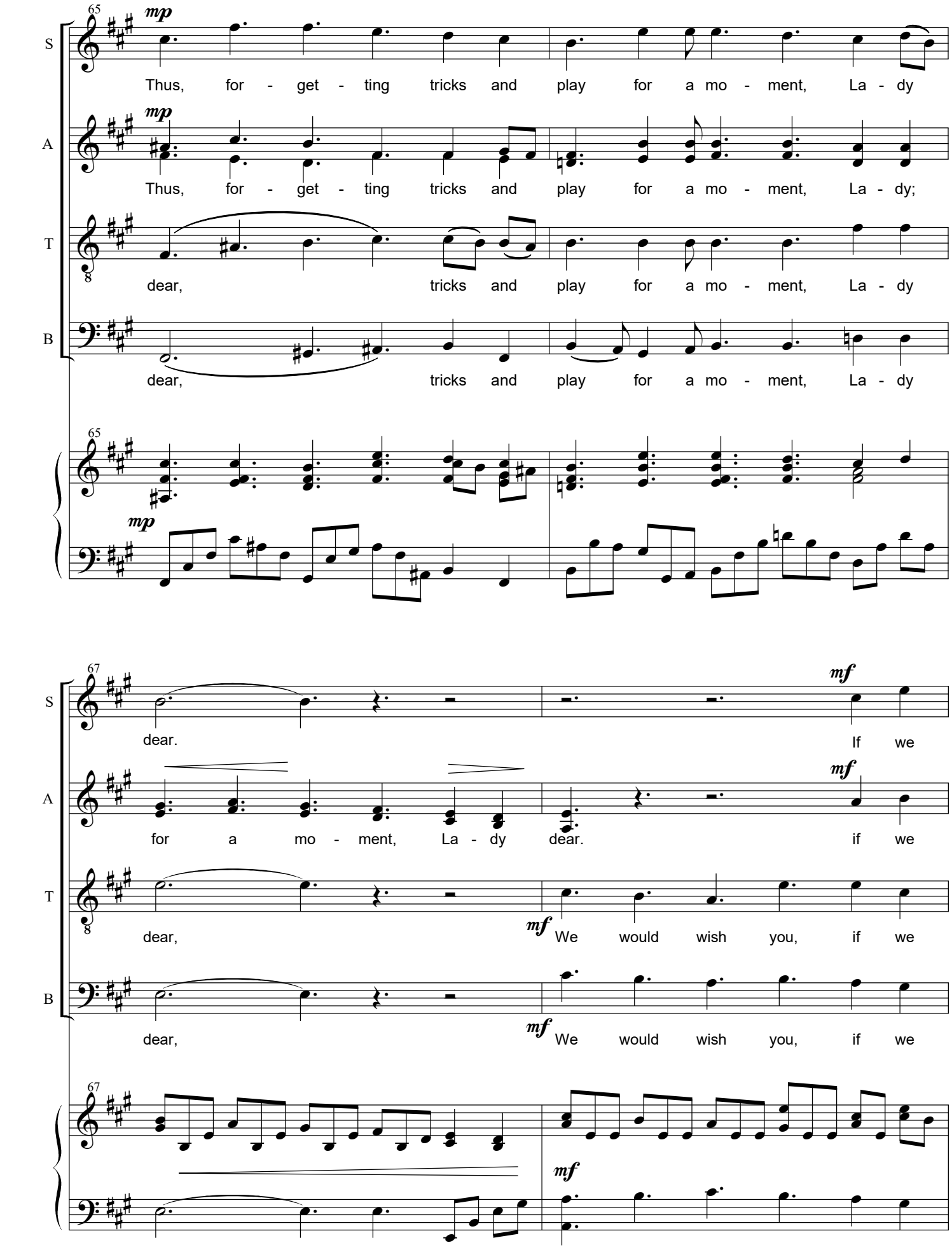

35
S.
A.
T.
B.
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, good -
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, to men,
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, to men,
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, good - will to
S
A
T
B
sound.
sound.
sound.
sound.
mf

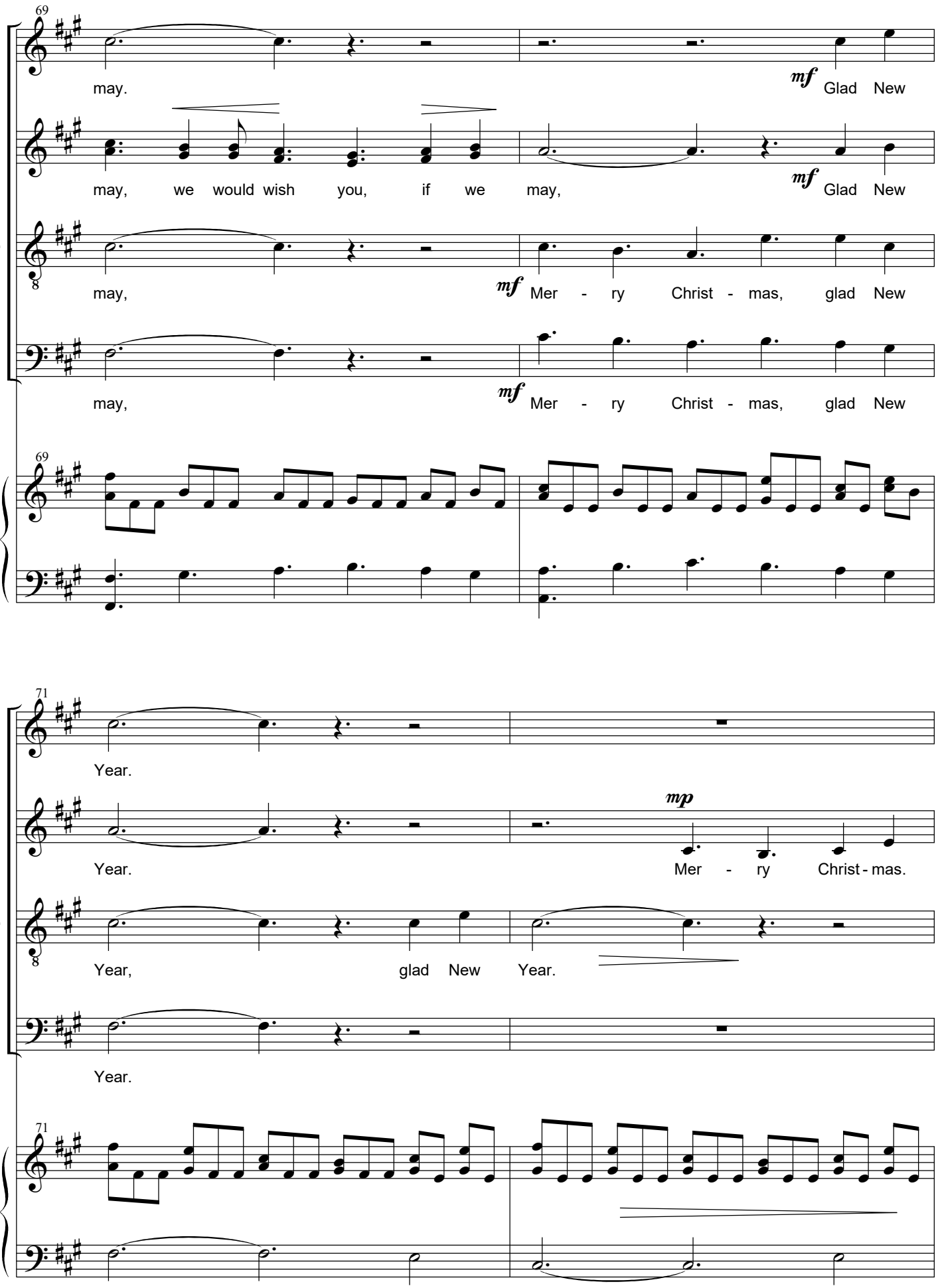

39
S.
will to men, good - will to
A.
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, to men, good - will to
T.
"Peace on earth, peace on earth, good - will to
B.
men, peace on earth, good - will to
39
f
S
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, good -
A
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, good -
T
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, good -
B
"Peace on earth, good - will to men, good - will to men, good -
39

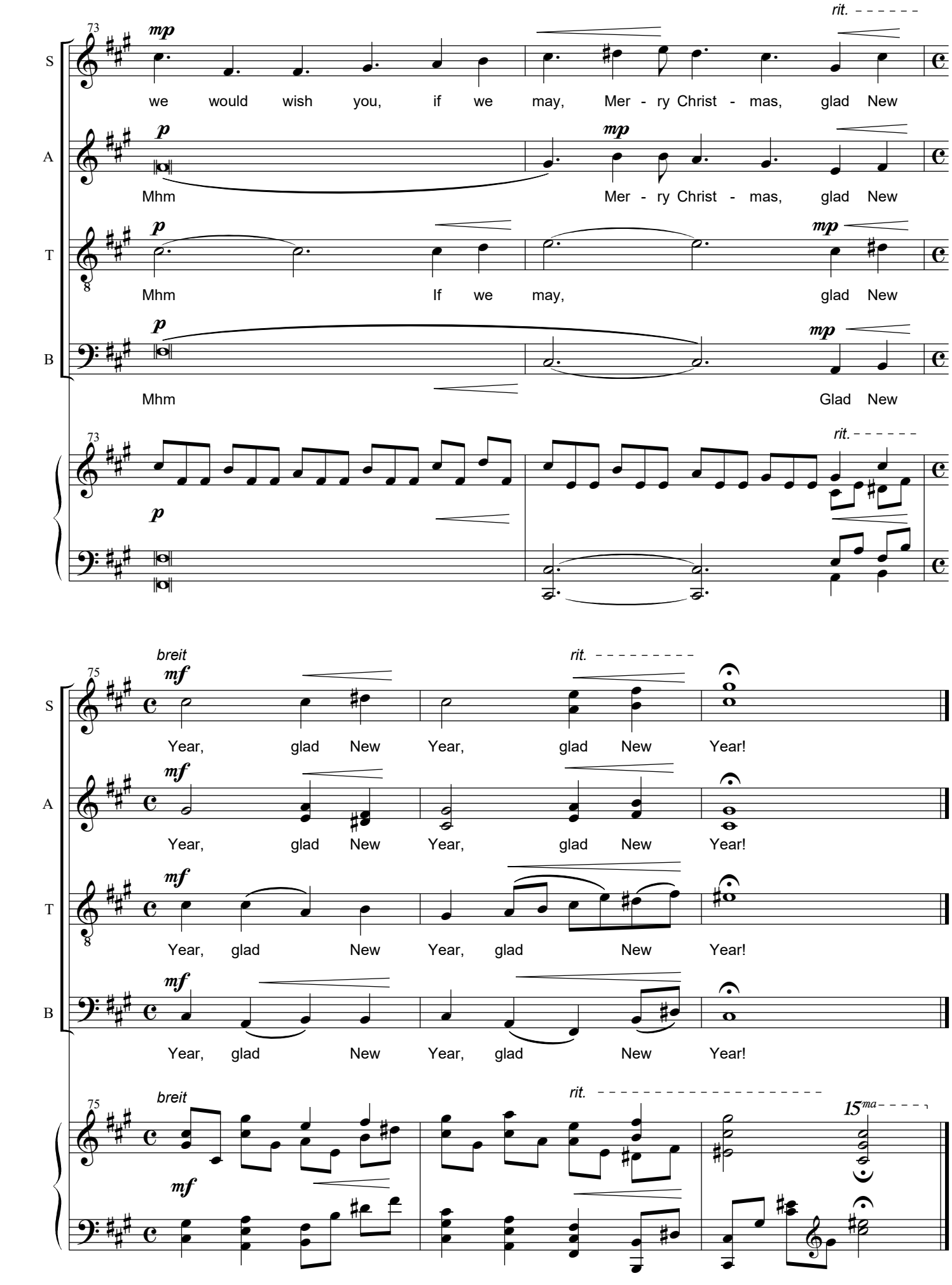
43
S.
men, to men!"
A.
men, good - will to men!"
T.
men, good - will to men!"
B.
men, good - will to men!"
43
S
will to men!"
A
will to men!"
T
will to men!"
B
will to men!"
43
mp


48
S
A
T
B
mp
where such hea - ven-ly guests a-bide:
Yet the hearts must child - like be
p
Mhm
Child - like be.
52
rit.
mf
all the year is Christ-mas -
Un - to chil - dren, in their glee,
Ah


56
a tempo
S
A
T
B
tide!
tide!
mf
tide,
Christ - mas - - tide!
tide!
a tempo
56
p
58
61
63
T
B
mp
Thus, for - get - ting tricks and play for a mo - ment, La - dy
mp
Thus, for - get - ting tricks and play for a mo - ment, La - dy
63


65
mp
S
Thus, for - get - ting tricks and play for a mo - ment, La - dy
A
Thus, for - get - ting tricks and play for a mo - ment, La - dy;
T
dear, tricks and play for a mo - ment, La - dy
B
dear, tricks and play for a mo - ment, La - dy
67
mf
dear. If we
for a mo - ment, La - dy dear. if we
dear, We would wish you, if we
dear, We would wish you, if we


69
S
may.
mf
Glad New
A
may, we would wish you, if we may,
mf
Glad New
T
may,
mf
Mer - ry Christ - mas, glad New
B
may,
mf
Mer - ry Christ - mas, glad New
71
S
Year.
A
Year.
mp
Mer - ry Christ - mas.
T
Year, glad New Year.
B
Year.


73
rit.
S
A
T
B
mp
p
we would wish you, if we may, Mer - ry Christ - mas, glad New
Mhm
Mer - ry Christ - mas, glad New
Mhm
If we may, glad New
Mhm
Glad New
75
breit
mf
Year, glad New Year, glad New Year!
15ma